

Iraq Kurds fail to agree on how to implement accord

LONDON (Agencies) — Rival Iraqi Kurd factions meeting in Dublin failed to agree on implementing a peace accord because of differences over sharing customs revenues, the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) said here Saturday.

The PUK and its rival Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) met in the Irish capital since Tuesday to try and implement a U.S. and Turkish-backed peace accord reached in August in the Irish town of Drogheda.

But PUK spokesman Bahram Salah accused the KDP of reneging on the agreement which was due to be signed in Washington later this month by PUK leader Jalal Talabani and his KDP counterpart Massoud Barzani.

The main sticking-point was sharing out customs levied by the KDP on Iraqi oil transported by truck to Turkey through Kurdish-held northern Iraq.

The oil deliveries, which contravene a U.N. embargo in effect against Iraq since its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait, are the Kurds' main revenue, amounting to \$100,000-\$150,000 a day.

They agreed last month on sharing the revenue.

But Mr. Salah said the KDP gave no commitment in Dublin to share "the money that has been taken for the last 18 months or so." The issue was "crucial" because 1,700 Iraqi Kurd families needed financial help.

"At a time when we are knocking at the doors of international aid agencies and governments for help, it is a very sad irony that such resources would be denied to the very people that need it most," he said.

The KDP did not comment on the statements.

But the two sides pledged in Drogheda to abide by a ceasefire in a bid to end fighting in northern Iraq between the factions that has left more than 2,000 people dead since May 1994.

"I desperately hope it will hold," Mr. Salah said. "We raised the question at the (Dublin) meeting: How much time can we hold in a situation of half-peace, half-war?"

He was more upbeat on another aspect of the Drogheda agreement: the demilitarisation of PUK-held Erbil, the main town in Iraqi Kurdistan. "Considerable progress" was made, he said. "PUK made a series of

concessions by way of retaking out all its forces from the Erbil area," in response to KDP demands for the demilitarisation of the town seized by its rivals in December, the spokesman said.

Mr. Salah said no date was set for another meeting, at which the U.S. State Department, Turkey and the Iraqi National Congress opposition coalition have also been represented.

The KDP moved forces to a mountainous area near Zakho in northern Iraq to flush out Turkish Kurdish rebels based there, the Turkish state-controlled Anatolian news agency said on Saturday.

About 3,000 KDP guards in the early morning surrounded the area where some 600 rebels from the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) were believed based, the agency said.

KDP spokesman Safwan Dazayee in Ankara told Reuters he could not confirm the operation, but said there had been plans to search for PKK rebels in that area.

The PKK, fighting for autonomy or independence in southeast Turkey, started attacking KDP positions in northern Iraq last month just as the Iraqi Kurdish groups began peace talks.

Turkish Kurdish political analysts have suggested the PKK's attacks were spurred by fears any accord from the U.S.-sponsored talks in Dublin could force the closure of PKK bases in northern Iraq.

Analysts say the PKK wants to set itself up as a third force in the region and send a warning to the Iraqi Kurds that only an agreement that takes the PKK into consideration will be tolerated.

In Kulp, Turkey, security forces striking from land and air killed 51 PKK rebels in one of the biggest reported clashes in southeast Turkey this year, security officials said on Friday.

Four government troops were also killed, they said. Ground forces backed by Super Cobra helicopters firing rockets killed the PKK guerrillas in mountains in Kulp and a neighbouring district in fighting that began on Thursday, they said.

"We are still searching areas where the PKK might be," local gendarmerie commander Colonel Mecit Korkut told reporters taken to the battle zone in Turkish army helicopters.



IRAQI PROTEST IN BEIJING: Iraqi delegates to the U.N. Fourth World Conference on Women demonstrate inside the building of the conference demanding an end to the five-year-old international sanctions against their country. The protest came during the closing ceremony of the conference (AFP photo)

Euro-MP: No customs union with Turkey without reforms

ISTANBUL (R) — A member of the European Parliament assessing Turkey's readiness for planned customs union said on Saturday Ankara needed to strengthen democracy and respect for human rights to ensure the deal is approved by the European Parliament.

Carlos Carnero Gonzalez, who had three days of meetings with political leaders and special interest groups, said the Euro-MPs were specifically concerned about limits on union rights, freedom of expression and the six pro-Kurdish MPs in jail.

"The customs union is not only an economic union and in this respect the European Union, when it enters into an agreement with a nation like Turkey, must stick to certain conditions," Mr. Carnero said at a news conference.

"The European Parliament wishes for the human rights situation to be improved and democracy should be improved," said Mr. Carnero.

The European Parliament will vote on the lucrative customs deal — set to go into effect at the start of 1996 — in December, and Mr. Carnero said democratic reform would ensure a

majority of the 626 deputies would vote in favour of the pact.

The Euro-MPs wanted to see the deputies from the Democracy Party (DEP), closed by the court last year, released from prison, restrictions on freedom of expression and union rights eased and human rights violations addressed, he said.

Turkey's appeals court will hear the case on Sept. 21 against the deputies imprisoned last December largely on the basis of speeches they made in favour of broader Kurdish rights.

Mr. Carnero added Ankara also needed to seriously address the Kurdish question — rebels and the army are locked in an 11-year battle in the mainly Kurdish southeast — human rights violations like torture and the Cyprus problem.

Turkey has insisted the rebel war can only be put down militarily, while some political analysts say the war is fuelled by restrictions on Kurdish political and cultural identity.

Mr. Carnero expressed sympathy for the plight of Prime Minister Tansu Ciller, who has promised to ease restrictions on free-

dom of expression but faces opposition even within her own party.

But he reiterated the European Parliament needed to see serious changes and signals that the July amendments to Turkey's military-rule era constitution were not sufficient.

"Without important changes in the fields I have mentioned... without a clear struggle against violations of human rights, without a new approach to the Kurdish and Cyprus problems, it shall be difficult to have the necessary majority to say yes to the customs union," he said.

"The constitutional reforms of July are not enough, and much remains to be done in this area," he added. "There are still several elements in the Turkish constitution that limit freedom, notably concerning trade union rights."

Mr. Carnero has met with Turkish leaders, including President Suleyman Demirel and Prime Minister Ciller, and imprisoned Kurdish deputies and their lawyers, and is due to meet business leaders as well.

Cyprus division key theme for festival

NICOSIA (AP) — Scores of children began painting a 50-metre-long mural depicting the division of this East Mediterranean island Saturday as a European cultural month got underway.

The Greek Cypriot children worked only a few yards metres from the barbed wire and fortifications of the U.N.-patrolled buffer zone that splits the capital into Greek and Turkish sectors.

Nicosia and the rest of Cyprus have been divided since Turkey invaded and occupied the northern one-third of the island in July 1974 following a short-lived coup by supporters of union with Greece.

The Greek Cypriots are using the cultural festival to highlight the political status of Nicosia as the world's last divided capital and the 21-year-old Turkish occupation of the north.

The festival has been boycotted by the breakaway, Turkish Cypriot state in the north, which is only recognised by Ankara.

"We revolt against the present division of Nicosia, against the current 'ethnic cleansing' solution which some have tried to establish here by force, cutting off by means of walls and barbed wire thousands of men and women who have lived together in harmony for centuries," said Miguel Angel Martinez, president of the parliamentary assembly of the Council of Europe.

"One has to condemn those responsible for such a monstrosity, but above all we must act firmly to put an end to it," he declared at the opening ceremony Friday night.

President Glafcos Clerides, the Greek Cypriot leader, said the choice of Nicosia for the festival "is particularly significant... it makes us feel we're being embraced by Europe."

He added that the festival will stress the common cultural heritage of Cyprus and Europe, which are based on respect for human rights. "Without the actual prevalence of these principles and values, our European civilisation and culture would be worthless," Mr. Clerides said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Grachev favours military ties with Israel

MOSCOW (AFP) — Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev said Friday that military cooperation with Israel would be beneficial to both countries. Interfax news agency reported, Israeli Prime Minister and Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who had talks with Mr. Grachev Thursday during a one-day visit to Moscow, said at the time that "cooperation in some military areas had not been ruled out." According to Mr. Grachev, both countries wanted military-industrial cooperation, but talks to this effect could only be held "on the instructions of the two president or by government resolutions." Russian cooperation with Israel is either forbidden or restricted, Mr. Grachev said, adding that any military cooperation would "strongly depend on the Middle East situation."

Man's head found on telephone pole

ASSIUT (R) — The severed head of a man killed by suspected Muslim militants has been found staked to a telephone pole at the entrance to a village in southern Egypt, security sources said on Saturday. Local residents told police that the head of Kaddi Fahmi Abu Halaqa — a suspected police informer — was fixed to the pole by a metal bar. Halaqa was gunned down in the village of Abshada, 260 kilometres south of Cairo, on Thursday. One of the gunmen cut off the head with a meat cleaver and it was found near the neighbouring village of Manshiet Al Maghalka, the sources said. Security sources said the gunmen were suspected members of the Gamaa Al Islamiyah (Islamic Group), which has been fighting security forces in southern Egypt for over three years. More than 840 people have been killed in political violence in Egypt since the Gamaa launched its campaign to overthrow the government and set up a strict Islamic state.

Algerian activist reported murdered

ALGIERS (AFP) — Suspected Islamic radicals have assassinated a leading human rights activist, Abdul Hafid Megdoud, newspapers reported Saturday. The dailies Le Matin and La Tribune reported that Megdoud, a trade union leader and member of the executive committee of the Algerian Human Rights League (LADDH), was shot and killed Wednesday as he was driving with his wife and children in the Algiers suburb of Baraki. Megdoud had already escaped two assassination attempts by suspected radicals fighting to topple the secular, military-backed regime in Algiers. The newspapers said he was buried on Friday. The newspapers published a statement by the LADDH condemning the "vile murder" of Megdoud.

Moroccans approve constitutional change

RABAT (R) — Moroccans voted almost unanimously in favour of a constitutional amendment to change the date on which the budget is passed, the government said on Saturday. The Ministry of Interior said 99.6 per cent of the 8.2 million Moroccans — about 70 per cent of registered voters — who voted on Friday had approved the change. The amendment will allow parliament to vote on the budget in June rather than in October. King Hassan said when he called the referendum in August that this would permit the government to take account of the annual harvest in May and make more realistic forecasts. Budget forecasts for 1995 were thrown off by a disastrous cereals harvest caused by severe drought.

PFLP-GC arms dump explodes in Shatilla

BEIRUT (AP) — A fire set off a series of explosions in a Palestinian group's ammunition depot in a Beirut refugee camp during the night, wounding seven people, police reported Saturday.

It was the latest in a series of explosions at bases operated by the Syrian-backed Popular front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC) in recent weeks.

Police said they could not determine what started the blaze in the group's arms depot in the Shatilla refugee camp at 11:45 p.m. (2045 GMT) Friday.

The depot was believed to have contained hundreds of mortar rounds and anti-aircraft missiles, police said in a statement.

It said five of the casualties were treated at a camp clinic for minor burns. Two others were hospitalised.

It was not clear whether the casualties were guerrillas or civilians.

PFLP spokesmen declined comment on the explosions. But a guard at the depot said the fire started when a gas cylinder exploded.

Police officials said they could not say whether the fire was an accident or possible sabotage similar to recent mishaps at PFLP-GC bases in other parts of Lebanon.

The latest was an Aug. 31 explosion at the group's main

training camp in the Syrian-controlled Bekaa Valley in east Lebanon.

Five guerrillas were killed and 12, including PFLP-GC leader Ahmad Jibril's eldest son Jihad, were wounded in the blast, which was reportedly caused when a bomb the men were handling detonated.

Two weeks earlier, three guerrillas were reported killed in an explosion at another popular front base.

The PFLP-GC opposes the 1993 Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) self-rule accord. The group is allied with the Iranian-backed Shiite Muslim Hizbollah, or Party of God, in a guerrilla war against the Israelis in South Lebanon where they occupy a border strip.

PFLP-GC bases in Lebanon, which is dominated by Syria, have been a frequent target of Israeli air attacks since 1987.

Friday's explosion in Shatilla came on the anniversary of the 1982 camps' massacre in Lebanon.

It occurred near a cemetery for victims of the camps' massacre.

Saturday marked the 13th anniversary of the massacre by Christian militiamen of hundreds of civilians in the Sabra and Shatila camps during the Israeli invasion of Lebanon.

Powell says he opposed Iran deal, blasts Walsh

WASHINGTON (AP) — Retired General Colin Powell, a little-known figure during the Iran-contra scandal, writes in his autobiography that he took a dim view of proposals to ship arms to Iran, and was furious that an independent counsel later questioned his veracity about the matter.

Gen. Powell, who is considering a presidential bid as he launches a book tour, disputes the conclusion by counsel Lawrence Walsh that he was privy to "detailed information" regarding illegal U.S. arms shipments to Iran in 1985.

"Dead wrong," Gen. Powell wrote in "My American Journey."

Gen. Powell's chatty memoir, released in bookstores Friday, tells the story of the son of a Jamaican im-

migrants whose successful military career led him to Washington's power corridors. He was a high-ranking Pentagon official, White House national security adviser, and eventually the nation's highest military official.

As military assistant to Caspar Weinberger, then defence secretary, Gen. Powell wrote that he knew as early as June 1985 that National Security Adviser Robert McFarlane was proposing such sales in a bid to reach out to moderate Iranians in the volatile nation.

He called the idea "audacious" and "foolhardy" and said Mr. Weinberger held a similar view.

"I did not know the shipments had actually been made until sometime in 1986," after President

Ronald Reagan signed a secret order making the transfer retroactively legal, Gen. Powell wrote. He said he then arranged for the transfer of anti-tank missiles to the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), which sent them to Iran.

Mr. Walsh did not take any action against Gen. Powell, and his role has never been a major focus of media attention.

But the Iran-contra issue, along with other aspects of Gen. Powell's long military and government career, is likely to come under increased scrutiny if the retired Joint Chiefs of Staff chairman gets into the presidential race.

In previously released book excerpts and interviews, Gen. Powell said he is considering a presidential bid, is dissatisfied with both political parties and be-

lieves the country may be ready for a third major political party. But he has not said whether he would affiliate with a party if he did run.

He wrote that he rebuffed President Bill Clinton's offer to be secretary of state because of reservations about "the ambiguous way the administration handled foreign policy."

In the book, Gen. Powell expresses pride at having been the first black person to achieve some of those milestones, and said that when Mr. Reagan selected him as national security adviser, "I also felt along with the pride a certain burden to prove myself as the first African-American to hold the position."

And he wished two Republican presidents he served, Mr. Reagan and George Bush, had "shown

more sensitivity" on race relations.

An ad used by the 1988 Bush campaign that focused on Willie Horton, a black Massachusetts inmate who raped a white woman while on a prison furlough, was a political cheap shot, Gen. Powell said.

"Was the ad depicting the incident racist? Of course. Had it bothered me? Certainly."

Mr. Reagan and Mr. Bush themselves betrayed not "the slightest trace of racial prejudice in their behaviour," Gen. Powell wrote. "They led a party, however, whose principal message to black Americans seemed to be: Lift yourself by your bootstraps. All did not have bootstraps; some did not have boots. I wish that Reagan and Bush had shown more sensitivity on this point."

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 73111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

14:00 The Flintstones
14:30 Joshua Jones
14:45 The Mighty Jungle
15:00 Pagetall Summer
15:30 Football match — UEFA Champions League 1995/1996
17:00 Children's Programme — Les Mondes Enchantés
17:30 Serie — L'Unité
18:00 F1 — News in French
19:15 News Headlines
19:30 Cinema, Cinema
20:00 The Bold and the Beautiful
21:15 Startibair
22:00 News in English
22:25 Drama — Counterside
23:10 Return to Eden (Ep.11)
00:30 Keeping Up Appearances

PRAYER TIMES

04:55 Sunrise
12:30 Dhuhr
13:00 Asr
18:45 Maghrib
20:05 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Swetif, Tel. 810741
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785

WEATHER

Bulkair supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Mild weather conditions will prevail with temperatures below average and winds northwesterly moderate to active. In Agaba, winds will be northerly active and squally.

Min Max temp. Amman 17/29

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Agaba 22/35
Deraa 15/34
Jordan Valley 24/36

Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 31, Agaba 37, Humidity readings: Amman 30 per cent, Agaba 21 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Munther Al Oqari 884296
Dr. Khalil Abu Marjoub 779797
Dr. Khalil Al Tawji 757253
Dr. Muhammad Al Shobaki 723222

Firas pharmacy 661012
Ferdous pharmacy 778326
Al Asema pharmacy 637055
Narvakh pharmacy 623672
Al Salom pharmacy 636739
Ya'qub pharmacy 644445
Shimrani pharmacy 637040
Narvakh pharmacy 623672
Najib pharmacy 847632

IRBID:

Dr. Ali Al Shogari 246140
Alqub pharmacy (—)

ZARQA:

Dr. Fakhri Jaber 984549
Khalid pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 617101
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843012
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 63021
Hotel Complaints 665800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Amman Municipality 787111
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Oscaros Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Ahdal Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 713111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 660100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

Electric Power

Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200

Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Husseini Medical Centre 8181332
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn 6422616
Akileh Maternity, J. Amn 6424414
Zahel Amman Maternity 642362
Muhajir, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmiciani 6641714
Shmiciani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Musader Hospital 6672274
The Islamic, Abdali 66012737
Public Security 6641646
Al-Ahli, Abdali 7771013
Italian, Al-Muhajir 8911115
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 77511126
Army, Marja 8911115
Queen Alia Hospital 66224050
Amal Hospital 667155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital 09-983323
Zarqa National Hospital 09-986732
Ibn Sina Hospital 09-986732
Al-Hikma Modern Hospital 09-986732
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery 865199
IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital 02-275555
Greek Catholic Hospital 02-27225

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

05:30 Bangkok (RJ)
06:45 Agaba (RJ)
09:15 Dhahran (RJ)
09:55 Vienna, Munich (RJ)
10:00 Riyadh (RJ)
10:10 Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:30 Beirut (RJ)
10:50 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
12:30 Jeddah (RJ)
12:50 New Delhi (RJ)
14:00 Paris (RJ)
18:20 London (RJ)
19:15 Athens (RJ)
19:50 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
19:45 Frankfurt (RJ)
20:00 Madrid, Geneva (RJ)
20:40 Rome (RJ)
22:20 Vienna, Munich (RJ)
01:05 Agaba (RJ)
01:15 Cairo (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

11:30 Sarajevo (RJ)
13:40 Bahrain, Sharjah (GF)

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg

Apple 600/400
Banana 600
Banana (Mukammal) 620
Cabbage 130/100
Carrot 340/350
Cauliflower 300/350
Cucumbers (large) 130/100
Cucumbers (small) 230/150
Eggplant 250/150
Figs 240/160
Garlic 700/500
Grapes 600/500
Guava 650/500
Lemon 650/500
Marrow (large) 200/150
Marrow (small) 400/300
Mulkhiya 130/100
Okra 850/700
Onion (dry) 250/200
Oranges 1000/800
Peaches 200/150
Pepper (hot) 230/150
Pepper (sweet) 230/150
Pomegranate 240/160
Potato 340/200
String Beans 600/500
Sweet Melon 360/200
Tomato 100/70
Water Melon 120/70

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:30 Agaba (RJ)
06:40 Beirut (RJ)
09:30 Vienna, Munich (RJ)
11:30 Dhahran (RJ)
12:10 Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
12:15 Rome (RJ)
12:15 Athens (RJ)
12:30 London (RJ)
13:25 Athens, Casablanca (RJ)
13:25 Athens (RJ)
14:30 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
15:20 Cairo (RJ)
15:25 Jeddah (RJ)
16:20 New Delhi (RJ)
16:25 Damascus (RJ)
16:30 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
16:35 Agaba (RJ)
16:45 Sarajevo (RJ)
17:30 Athens (RJ)

Other flights (Terminal 2)

07:30 Rome (AZ)
08:45 Beirut (ME)
13:30 Sarajevo (RJ)

Home News

Jordan Times, Sunday, September 17, 1995 3

Drowning accidents kill 3 youths, road accidents claim 3 lives

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Three youths were killed Friday in three separate drowning incidents in the King Abdullah and the Ghor canals, police and Civil Defence Department (CDD) reports said.

In the first incident a 7-year-old child drowned while swimming in King Abdullah Canal in the Al Yabis Valley, reports said.

According to the reports, eyewitnesses said that they saw the victim, Mohammad Akram Saghir, waving for help.

A 13-year-old youth drowned in a similar swimming incident in the same canal on Friday. Official reports identified the victim as Adli Faleh Odeh.

In the Jordan Valley on Friday, a 12-year-old child, Ahmad Mustafa, was also

killed in a drowning incident, according to police reports.

All three bodies were retrieved by CDD frogmen and were taken to Muz Bin Jabal, Abu Obeidah and the Jordan Valley hospitals.

Meanwhile, South Shouneh police are searching for a hit-and-run driver who on Friday struck and killed a pedestrian, police reports said.

"We do not have a description of the car or any witnesses but we hope to find the suspect soon," a police official told the Jordan Times.

He added that the only evidence was grey paint found on the victim's clothing.

According to the police official, the victim, Amin Ahmad, 27, went into a coma and died an hour after arriving to the hospital.

Also on Friday, a 7-year-

old child was killed after being run over by a vehicle in Yadoudeh, near Queen Alia International Airport Highway, police reports said.

The victim, Ghadir Mustafa, was the fourth child to die in a road accident in the Kingdom last week.

In Irbid on Friday, one person was killed and five more were injured in a road collision, an official report said.

According to the report, the accident which took place on the Amman-Irbid highway involved a public bus and a private car.

The driver of the car, Ahmad Abdul Rahman, 45, was killed instantly.

Five of the bus passengers were injured and were taken to Princess Basma Hospital in Irbid. They were discharged the same day, the report said.

Detours on Amman roads likely during MENA summit, says Abbadi

AMMAN (Petra) — The Greater Amman Municipality is busy planning how to facilitate the movement through Amman of hundreds of participants in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit which will be opened Oct. 29, Amman Mayor Mamdouh Abbadi said Saturday.

In an interview with the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Dr. Abbadi said the municipality will also begin cleaning up the city's streets, painting curbs and hanging banners welcoming participants to the three-day international summit.

Describing the summit as the biggest gathering of international figures and representatives of foreign governments ever hosted by Jordan, he said changes in traffic routes and detours would more than likely be required during the summit.

He announced that the municipality will stage several cultural activities and organise tours to archaeological attractions for the conferees.

The mayor praised tree nursery owners who recently announced their donation of agricultural material worth JD 50,000 to the municipality to help spruce up the city, saying their initiative was a reflection of cooperation and interaction between the municipality and the various sectors of the society.

Dr. Abbadi urged private sector institutions to follow the lead of nursery owners in serving their city by helping



A steam roller completes the asphalt paving of a road in Jabal Amman (Petra photo)

the municipality improving public services.

He said the current street repairs and asphalt paving are part of the municipality's routine work paid out of its annual budget.

He said work was currently under way in asphalt paving streets in Marka, Quweis-meh, Shafa Badran and Tla Al Ali.

The mayor added that the municipality was also opening a 2.5-kilometre road in

Ein Ghazal, in northeast Amman, to provide substitute roads for motorists and reduce traffic congestion.

He said the municipality started using its own machinery to asphalt roads, but that development does not mean that the municipality has begun to compete with the private sector.

He said the private will always have its major role in municipal works. The objective, he stressed, is to keep municip-

pality in proper working order at all times.

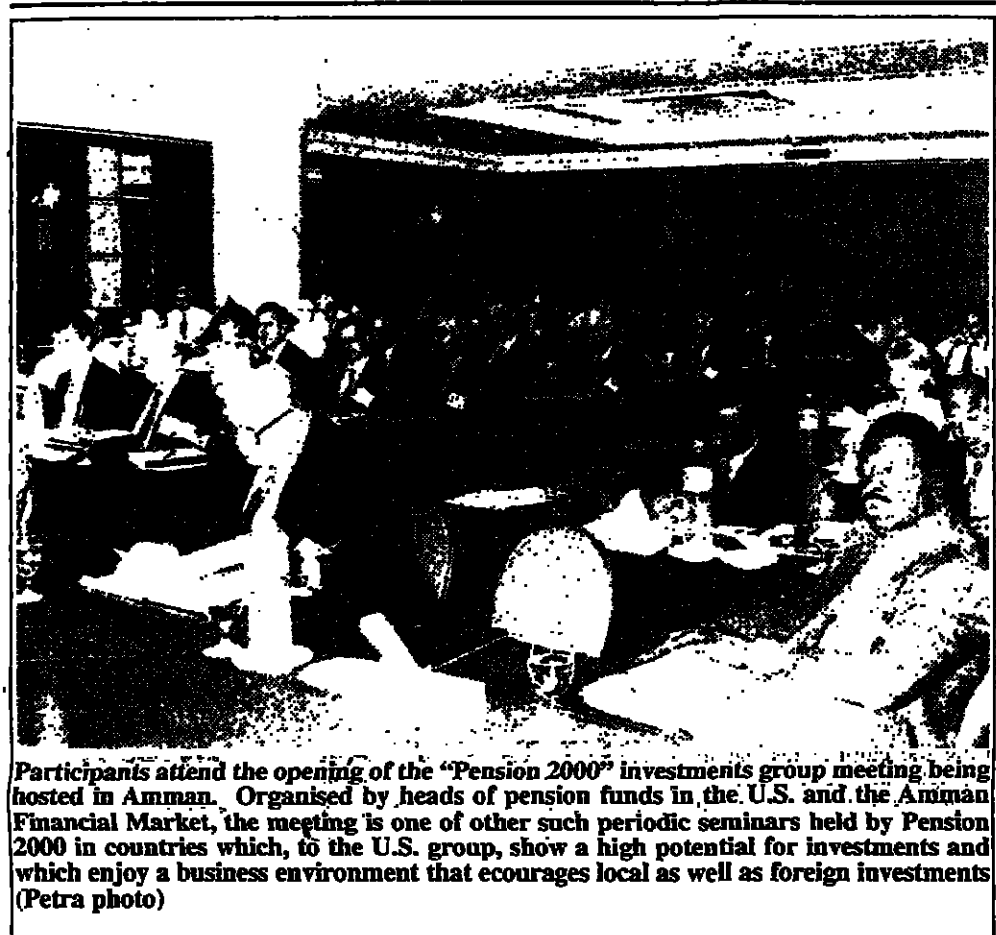
Mayor leaves for Vienna

Dr. Abbadi later Saturday left for Vienna on a seven-day visit to Austria at the invitation of the Governor of Vienna.

The mayor, who is leading a several-member delegation from the municipality, said he will hold talks with Aus-

trian officials to discuss enhancing cooperation between the municipalities of Amman and Vienna and to benefit from the Austrian capital's expertise in the field of electronic surveillance of roads and central control of traffic lights.

During his stay in Vienna, Dr. Abbadi will also participate in a conference on means of exploiting waste materials.



Participants attend the opening of the "Pension 2000" investments group meeting being hosted in Amman. Organised by heads of pension funds in the U.S. and the Amman Financial Market, the meeting is one of other such periodic seminars held by Pension 2000 in countries which, to the U.S. group, show a high potential for investments and which enjoy a business environment that encourages local as well as foreign investments (Petra photo)

First Swiss cultural week to include Oscar-winning film, photography

AMMAN (J.T) — For the first time in Jordan the Swiss embassy, in cooperation with Pro Helvetia Arts Council of Switzerland, will hold a Swiss cultural week at the Royal Cultural Centre from Sept. 19 to 24.

On the programme are seven Swiss feature films and five documentaries.

One of the films is the 1991 Oscar-winner for best foreign film directed by Xavier Koppler, "Journey of Hope," which recounts a true story of the illegal immigration of a Turkish

couple and their young son from southeast Turkey to Switzerland.

The cultural week seeks to introduce the latest Swiss cinematographic productions of the nineties to audiences in Jordan, and all films are subtitled in Arabic.

Exhibitions on display during that week include one entitled "Swiss Photographers from 1840 Until Today," which features 300 black and white shots taken by 117 photographers from around the world.

These photographs "are a

pictorial documentation of the last 150 years in Europe," said Swiss Ambassador G. F. Pedotti.

"Face to Face with Switzerland," another exhibition, seeks to illustrate Swiss images, a people's way of life in state and society, through life-size photographs of Swiss citizens, rural and urban, young and old.

On the lighter side, Dimitri, a famous Swiss clown, will communicate beyond cultural boundaries through the art of pantomime.

Report cites continuing assaults on holy places by Israel

AMMAN (Petra) — The Palestinian Affairs Department monthly report, released Saturday, said Israeli occupation authorities last month carried out repeated assaults against holy places in the Palestinian occupied territories, and continued their confiscation of Arab lands and the opening of roads for Israeli settlements.

The department said the Israeli authorities also continued to conduct mass and administrative arrests and demolish Arab-owned houses in violation of basic human rights.

The report also said Israeli authorities closed the old city of Jerusalem and Al Aqsa Mosque following repeated attempts by Israeli settlers to break into the holy shrine and confrontations at the site between the Jewish extremist groups and Palestinians defending the mosque.

The report said an Israeli ministerial committee on Jerusalem affairs decided to close three Palestinian institutions operating in Jerusalem — the radio and television corporation, the Statistics Centre and a health centre — under the pretext that the three establishments violate Israeli laws by being linked to the Palestine National Authority (PNA).

These decisions, the report stated, conspicuously contravene the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles and Israeli official pledges on the status of Palestinian institutions operating in Jerusalem.

This means the Israeli authorities are determined to prejudice the status of Jerusalem ahead of negotiating the future of the city with the Palestinians and ignoring Palestinian rights in the city on the one hand and international legitimacy resolutions on the city on the other, the report said.

It said the attacks against religious sites were not exclusive to Al Aqsa Mosque, but included several others by Jewish extremists on places of worship elsewhere in Jerusalem and attempts to close Palestinian institutions in the city.

The report said the Israeli authorities confiscated large tracts of land in the areas of Deir Abu Dacef, Arrana, Jalama, Ramallah, Birch and

Beitounya

The occupation authorities also continued their settlement activities and continued to block main roads intermittently in all parts of the territories, the report said.

The department cited an Israeli newspaper report as saying the Israeli Public Works Department was preparing to open four roads in the West Bank, one to surround Tulikarem, another around Jenin and two to girdle Ramallah.

The report went on to say that settlers were rampaging through the West Bank, shattering the windshields of cars owned by Arab citizens.

In addition, it said, Israeli army units broke into several mosques and confiscated Islamic books and religious tapes and extended the closure of the premises of the Palestine Scholars League for another six-month period.

Furthermore, assaults targeting Arab shops, hospitals, health clinics and mosques continued in the occupied territories throughout August, the report said.

It said assaults on Arab-owned lands included the plowing down of crops or spraying them with damaging chemicals.

The report said Israeli police conducted mass arrests of Arab labourers and issued prison terms and heavy financial fines, in addition to detaining Arab labourers under various pretexts for several days.

It said Israeli authorities recently renewed the administrative detention of Palestinians who were in ill health despite numerous calls by many human rights organisations for their immediate and unconditional release.

The report appealed to all local and international human rights organisations to intervene to bring to an end to such administrative detentions which constitute a violation of human rights.

The Palestinian Affairs Department also criticised long prison terms issued by Israeli courts against Palestinians, and the summary trials of Palestinian labourers arrested inside Israel without permits.

First mobile telephone services company starts issuing 'subscriber identity modules'

By Beatrix Immenkamp
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordan Mobile Telephone Services (JMTS), the privately owned shareholding company providing cellular telephone services to Jordan, Saturday began to distribute to the public Subscriber Identity Modules, or SIM cards, required for the activation of cellular phones.

"Subscribers who purchased their SIM cards today will be able to use their mobile telephones within a week," Nisreen Husary of JMTS told the Jordan Times.

"The same rule will apply to all subscribers; they will be able to use their mobile phones a week from the day of purchase of the SIM card," she added.

JMTS, also known as Fastlink, is expecting 200 to 500 customers a day during the distribution phase, which will last until Oct. 8.

Ten thousand potential customers registered with the company for SIM cards, paying a deposit of JD 100 each. Upon purchase of the SIM cards, customers have to pay an additional deposit of JD 150 for access to international lines, a JD 70 one-time connection fee and a JD 21 fee for the first month.

Customers say they value the additional freedom of movement which they acquire with their mobile telephones.

Karim Mubarak, a tour operator whose company subscribed to six cellular lines, told the Jordan Times that his mobile phone will allow him to do several jobs simultaneously while remaining constantly available.

He stressed that it would also allow him to offer better service to his customers, because he will be able to stay in much better contact with tour guides.

"A tour guide can tell me that he is on his way to the hotel, so we can have everything ready for the tourists upon arrival. In tourism, providing good service is considered very important," he said.

A factory owner, Awni M. Sayej, who also owns a second business, will now be able to divide his time more effectively between east and west Amman, where his two businesses are located.

Both businessmen said they were certain that despite high operating costs, cellular phones will prove cost effective, their most important feature being that they will save their owners time. And time is money, both agreed.

A third customer, who preferred anonymity, deplored the high cost of cellular telephones available in Jordan in comparison to international prices.

On sale in the JMTS registration room at the Amman Crown Hotel were a range of Motorola mobile telephones, ranging in price between JD 650 and JD 850.

"Cellular telephones are subject to a 20% tax", Ms. Husary explained when asked about the high price of the telephones.

Customers who travel abroad are at an advantage, since they can purchase a handset outside Jordan and use it with their SIM card here.

Visitors to the JMTS registration room interviewed by the Jordan Times agreed that the government should improve telecommunication services in the country and not rely on the private sector to provide services which are only available to a small section of the population.

A JMTS representative admitted that cellular telephone services "are helping to cover a shortfall in (conventional) landlines," provided by Jordan's Telecommunications Corporation.

Italian firms to construct 71-km road to Aqaba

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Public Works and Housing Saturday awarded a JD 32.3 million dollar contract to two Italian firms to build a 71-kilometre stretch of road between Ras Al Naqab and Aqaba.

The ministry's secretary general, Bashir Jaghbeer, who signed the contract with the

Italian consortium, said the new four-lane road will extend from kilometre 14 to the village of Mureighah near kilometre 85 along the Desert Highway.

He said the project also entails constructing four bridges and a pedestrian underpass.

The project has been divided into two parts: a 43-kilometre

stretch to cost JD 17.7 million, of which 70 per cent will be financed by a loan from the World Bank and the rest by the state treasury; and a 28-kilometre stretch that will cost JD 14.6 million, half of which will be financed by a loan from the European Investment Bank and the rest from the Jordanian treasury.

TENDER'S NOTICE

The General Directorate of Supply / Ministry of Education announces the re-tendering of the following tenders as a part of the Sector Educational Project No. (3106-JO), (JO-P8).

Tender's No.	Title	Fees	Financed through
13/94 (C)	Educational Video Cass.	JD (25)	(JD - P8)
9/95	Furniture	JD (10)	(3106-JO)
10/95	Office Equipment	JD (25)	(3106-JO)

Interested bidders are invited to collect tender's documents from Procurement Division of the General Directorate of Supply / Ministry of Education, starting September 11, 1995 against the payment of the above fees.

Closing date will be 11.00 a.m. of October 25, 1995.

Head of Special Tenders Committee

Chechenya accuses Russia of attacks

MOSCOW (R) — Chechen rebels accused Russia Saturday of carrying out rocket attacks on Chechen villages in violation of a ceasefire agreement.

Movladi Udugov, information minister in the break-away forces of Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev, told Reuters by telephone that Russian helicopters fired rockets at villages in the Shali and Shatari districts for 90 minutes Saturday.

No confirmation was available from the Russian side. "We have no such information," said a Defence Ministry spokesman in Moscow.

On Wednesday General Anatoly Romanov, Russia's top commander in Chechenya, said 8,000 Interior Ministry troops had been withdrawn under a military agreement that also calls for rebels to disarm.

Mr. Udugov linked Saturday's attack to the absence of Gen. Romanov in Moscow for consultations. "This is a violation of the ceasefire agreement. Russia is continuing military opera-

tions. Our observers saw the attacks," Mr. Udugov said. Russia has accused the Chechen side of failing to implement its side of the military agreement by handing over the bulk of its weapons.

The two sides agreed Wednesday that the rebels should hand all their heavy weapons in by Sept. 20. TASS said only 1,250 guns had been handed in so far while 50,000 to 80,000 firearms were still at large.

The Chechens say the presence of Russian troops in the region makes many fighters reluctant to give up their weapons.

Russia sent troops to Chechenya last December to end the region's now four-year-old drive for independence from Russia. Thousands have been killed in fighting and many more have fled their homes.

Sporadic clashes have continued despite the July ceasefire agreement although heavy fighting is now rare.

Meanwhile the Chechen commander whose raid on a Russian town left over 100

people dead in June warned of a "sea of innocent people's blood" if Russia doesn't stop its war in Chechenya, a report said Saturday.

Shamil Basayev declared to a Chechen newspaper that he will not halt his fight until all Russian troops leave and there is "a free, independent Chechenya."

"If Russia, its President Boris Yeltsin with his entourage do not stop unprecedented genocide against a whole nation, no Omega, Alpha or Vypel (crack Russian military) units will help to save that country from retribution," he was quoted as saying.

Mr. Basayev was speaking in a Chechen mountain area in a recent interview with Grozny's Rabochy, the Interfax News Agency said. The newspaper went on sale in the Chechen capital Grozny Friday.

A front-page photograph showed the 30-year-old guerrilla leader standing in his military fatigues with a portrait of Mr. Dudayev in the background. He said he meets with Mr. Dudayev "as

the need arises."

"As long as just one Russian soldier is on (Chechen) soil, peace and calm will be incomplete," Mr. Basayev said. "For two centuries of relentless struggle for freedom and independence, the Chechens have earned full sovereignty."

Russian troops, who entered the Caucasus Mountains region last December to crush its separatist claims, control most of Chechenya but remain the target of sporadic attacks.

A July 30 military pact that called for prisoner exchanges, Chechen disarmament and partial Russian withdrawal has broken down.

Mr. Basayev referred to his June terrorist attack in the southern Russian town of Budyonnovsk as a "raid of despair... For the sake of stopping the slaughter in Chechenya."

He said he had never intended to carry out the raid anywhere but Budyonnovsk, contradicting earlier reports which had him planning to go all the way north to Moscow.



Rescue workers look for survivors at the site of the Malaysian Airlines plane crash in the eastern Malaysian state of Sabah. The crash killed 34 people (AFP photo)

Missing passenger from Malaysian plane crash walks into hospital

TAWAU, Malaysia (R) — A survivor from Malaysia's worst air crash in nearly two decades walked into a hospital Saturday, completing the plane disaster count of 34 people killed and 19 survivors.

The last survivor, Haroni Lada, is 34 years old and is a local resident. He was dazed and walked home yesterday after surviving, said Chua Soon Boi, member of parliament from Tawau in the north Borneo state of Sabah.

"He was not feeling too well this morning so he came into the hospital and then reported to the authorities," she said. Mr. Haroni was unavailable for comment.

The Malaysian Airlines System (MAS) Fokker 50 aircraft carrying 49 passengers and a crew of four crashed into a squatter colony after overshooting the Tawau runway Friday afternoon. It was on a scheduled flight from Sabah's capital, Kota Kinabalu.

Some of the survivors were seriously injured but were not in critical condition, a local hospital doctor said. The crash had also injured nine people from the squatter colony and two of them were in a serious condition, he said.

Rescue officials said the 34 people killed were Malaysians, including the

pilot and co-pilot.

Among the survivors who escaped through emergency doors were three foreigners, two Singaporeans and one Indonesian, officials said.

Mr. Chua said identifying many of those killed had been difficult because they were burned beyond recognition in the fire after the crash.

Other officials said MAS has flown in dental forensic experts to help with identification.

Some of the victims' relatives claiming remains were more fortunate. "We are lucky. At least we were able to identify the body easily," said a grieving P. Murugan, whose 26-year-old sister-in-law, Vijayalakshmi, an employee of international toy company Mattel, died in the crash. She was on a business trip to Tawau.

Mr. Murugan said he was taking the body back to Kuala Lumpur later Saturday.

At the site, the twin-propeller Fokker's starboard engine was the only recognizable part of the aircraft. "There were three consecutive explosions immediately after a loud crash. When we ran out we could only see fire, which was spreading very fast. All we could do was pick up our important documents and run for our lives," said Luman Sampe,

40, who lives in the squatter colony.

The fire took rescuers two hours to extinguish, stopping it just before Mr. Sampe's wooden house. Most houses in the colony are wooden and built on stilts.

Many other residents were not so lucky. A third of squatter colony was devastated by the crash and the fire.

The blaze destroyed 45 houses, leaving 54 Malaysians and eight foreign (Indonesian and Filipino) families homeless, a Welfare Department official said. He did not have the exact population of the area.

"But the residents didn't appear too unhappy," one observer in Tawau said. "They said if it burnt down I'll just build it again next week," he said.

MAS could not explain why the crash occurred and was not prepared to discuss compensation to victims.

"We are taking it one stage at a time. Right now we are busy helping the relatives of the victims," MAS Chairman Tajudin Ramli told reporters talking to relatives departing from Kuala Lumpur on a special MAS flight early Saturday morning.

Marilyn knew her old school ties, memoir reveals

LONDON (AP) — Marilyn Monroe's most convincing role-playing may have been that of dumb blonde, a memoir published Saturday revealed. Colin Clarke, a writer and member of a well-heeled British family — one brother is a retired defence minister and another is the doyen of art historians — published his diaries as a young gofer on the set of a 1956 Monroe film. First impressions of Monroe on the London set of *The Prince and The Showgirl* were not good, wrote the 25-year-old Clarke, fresh out of Oxford and Eton, in excerpts from the diaries published in the Daily Mail newspaper. Monroe constantly arrived late on the set and forgot her lines, frustrating her co-star Laurence Olivier. Worse, she necked with her just-married husband, playwright Arthur Miller, during the screening of the daily rushes — something Clarke described as "very un-British." Clarke's revelation came when he walked into Monroe's dressing room without knocking — and he encountered her wearing only a towel on her head. "All I could see were beautiful white and pink curves," he wrote that day. "I just stood there and stared and stammered. M.M. gave me her most innocent smile. 'Oh, Colin,' she said, 'and you an old Etonian.' 'How did she stay so cool?' And how did she know which school I had gone to and what it meant? ... I realised that behind the fog, M.M. could be a bit brighter than we all think. Acting dumb is a good way to make other people make fools of themselves."

Lottery winner rescues ticket from washing machine

LONDON (AP) — It all came out in the wash. A nightclub bouncer checking his jeans pockets before tossing them into the washing machine uncovered a 10-day-old lottery ticket, Press Association, Britain's domestic news service reported. Rob Campbell gave the ticket to his common-law wife to check at their local lottery outlet Wednesday. A town in central England, Caroline Emery learned that the ticket had won the Sept. 2 jackpot: the couple and their two children were £1.4 million (\$2,240,000) richer. "I never keep track of my numbers," said Mr. Campbell, 29. The first thing he was going to do was quit his job, he said. And his first spending priority? "I suppose I can get someone else to do my washing from now on," the National Lottery said that 10 days was the longest anyone had waited before cashing in a jackpot since the lottery's inception.

Bob Hope fires butler for not shaving

LOS ANGELES (R) — Bob Hope's former butler filed a wrongful termination suit against the legendary comedian Friday, saying he was fired for refusing to shave off his beard. In a suit filed in Los Angeles Superior Court, Jeffery Brannum stated that Hope and his wife hired him in December 1993 after seeing a photograph of him with a neatly groomed beard and informing him that his appearance was acceptable. Mr. Brannum said he reached an agreement to work for the Hopes for five years at an annual salary of \$50,000. But he alleged that about two weeks after he was hired, the Hopes told him they had an "unwritten law" that no employee was allowed to wear facial hair and he would have to shave if he wanted to keep his job. Mr. Brannum, who had 10 years' experience as a butler, said he refused and was "wrongfully terminated" the same day. Hope's publicist, Ward Grant, said the Hopes were not aware of the civil lawsuit and would have no comment until they had read it.

Hurricane Marilyn batters Virgin Islands, moves on Puerto Rico

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (R) — Hurricane Marilyn battered the U.S. Virgin Islands with high winds and heavy rains Friday, causing severe damage before moving on to take aim at eastern Puerto Rico.

Winds of up to 127 mph (204 kph) destroyed trailer parks and blew the roofs off many houses in St. Croix, witnesses and forecasters said.

"There was a lot of damage done to the island," said Brian Maher, a forecaster at the National Weather Service in Miami. He said radio reports received from St. Croix indicated several areas had suffered "severe damage."

Marilyn, the third major storm to batter the Caribbean in less than a month, was a category two hurricane with sustained winds of 105 mph (168 kph), the U.S. National Hurricane Centre said. It could strengthen to a category three storm, with winds of 111 to 130 mph (179 to 209 kph) by early Saturday, it said.

Island residents huddled in shelters all day awaiting the arrival of Marilyn. St. Thomas, in the U.S. Virgin Islands north of St. Croix, experienced winds close to 100 mph (161 kph) that brought 10 inches (25 cm) of rain.

St. Thomas lost electrical power at midday and stores sold out of batteries, ice and other supplies. It was under a curfew starting at 3 p.m. EDT (1900 GMT) with everyone but emergency workers

forbidden to leave their homes, officials said.

Government offices, businesses and schools in the Virgin Islands were closed, and boats were in hurricane holes and sheltered harbours as residents prepared for the worst.

"We're not taking any chances. We're advising residents to take this storm very seriously," said Donovan Gentles, a coordinator for the Office of Disaster Preparedness in the British Virgin Islands.

Storm-weary residents of Puerto Rico, still recovering from a brush with hurricane Luis 10 days ago, prepared frantically Friday as Marilyn neared.

At 11 p.m. EDT (0300 GMT) the eye of the hurricane was just east of Puerto Rico and moving northwest at eight to 10 mph (13-16 kph), a path that was expected to continue over the next 24 hours, forecasters said.

Puerto Rican supermarkets, their shelves still depleted from a rush to buy goods for Luis, were so crowded that many stores added security guards to keep shoppers in line. Streets were jammed as residents scrambled to buy candles, water and other supplies.

Banks, schools and government offices were closed all day or shut down early Friday. Puerto Rican Governor Pedro Rossello activated the island's emergency plan and declared a state of emergency as of 6 p.m. EDT (2200 GMT). San Juan's interna-

tional airport closed at midday.

Marilyn claimed its first life, at least indirectly, in Puerto Rico Friday when a 17-year-old was electrocuted as he removed an antenna from the roof of his home near San Juan.

Forecasters at the National Hurricane Centre said the compact storm — hurricane-force winds extended just 30 miles (48 kilometres) from its centre — could fluctuate in intensity over the next 24 hours.

A previous storm, hurricane Luis, had threatened the eastern Caribbean at the end of August, but it caused little damage as it brushed through as a tropical storm.

But 10 days ago, one of the most powerful storms of the century, hurricane Luis, roared through the eastern Caribbean. With deadly 140 mph (225 kph) winds, Luis smashed Antigua, Barbuda, Anguilla and St. Martin, killing at least 16 people.

Emergency officials said everyone was weary from the repeated preparations, but relieved that most residents seemed to be getting ready nonetheless.

"The fact that we just went through Luis helped, definitely," Mr. Gentles said. "Many places were battered down already. People had a stronger sense of the need to be prepared."

In Fajardo, a low-lying town on the northeast coast of Puerto Rico, pickup trucks cruised through the streets with loudspeakers urging people to abandon their homes and seek shelter.

Typhoon Oscar threatening Japan

TOKYO (R) — One of Japan's strongest typhoons since the war roared north Saturday, threatening to batter the Tokyo region with high winds and whip up 10-metre waves, the Meteorological Agency said.

Typhoon Oscar, gusting up to 180 kph (110 mph) at its centre, was 900 km (550 miles) south-southwest of Tokyo at 3.00 p.m. (0600 GMT) Saturday, and heading for the capital at 20 km (13 miles) per hour.

It would hit or be near Tokyo about 9 a.m. (2400 GMT) Sunday, the agency forecast.

Seas were building Saturday afternoon, and some ferry services to southern islands had already been cancelled, the agency said.

The pressure at the typhoon's centre was 925 hectopascals, as low as the strongest typhoons to hit Japan since the war. However, the agency's forecasters said that because of Japan's topography and the relatively cool sea temperature it was likely to ease off to 940 hectopascals, before reaching the Japanese coast.

The forecasters said it might veer east and not hit directly. "If it follows the western-most course it will hit the coast directly," said Toshihiko Sobajima, a forecaster at the Meteorological Agency's information offices.

"But it won't necessarily do this there would still be strong winds, but it wouldn't be as bad," he said.

U.S. battle escalates over health care spending

WASHINGTON (AFP) — President Bill Clinton, wading deep into the high-stakes budget battle with the Republican-held Congress, has threatened to veto conservative plans to cut spending on health care for the elderly.

Mr. Clinton, calling for a compromise, said plans to trim \$270 billion from the popular Medicare health programme that serves nearly 40 million U.S. residents goes too far.

"This is not what it takes to save Medicare," he said. "If these health care cuts come to my desk, of this size, I would have no choice but to veto it."

Republicans in the House of Representatives unveiled their proposal Thursday to revamp Medicare, the federal health insurance programme used by elderly and disabled Americans. Senate Republicans were working on a similar plan.

The plan got a positive review from Texas billionaire Ross Perot, the unsuccessful presidential candi-

date who has argued for fiscal restraint and reform in Washington.

"It takes a lot of courage to touch this alligator," said Mr. Perot, who got 19 per cent of the vote as an independent candidate in 1992. "If you were just being a politician, you would not touch this thing."

Republicans say the federal health care system will go bankrupt if they do not reform it now, and blame Democrats for pandering to the fears of the elderly, who vote in overwhelming numbers.

They won majorities in both houses of Congress last November for the first time in four decades, on promises of balancing the federal budget in seven years by cutting programmes that Democrats hold dear.

Democrats, including Mr. Clinton, charge that Republicans aim to cut Medicare at triple the rate necessary in order to stabilise spending to finance a tax cut for the wealthy.

Dick Gephardt, a Missouri representative and leader of the House Democrats, said his party would fight to ensure that "the health of the elderly (will) not be battered away for a fistful of supply-side silver."

Both sides generally agree that the stakes are high for both parties.

House Speaker Newt Gingrich told a television interviewer early Friday that the Medicare reform issue could boost or break Republican momentum in Congress.

He called the proposed cutbacks "a very responsible, very serious effort to preserve and protect the Medicare system" but conceded that a tough sales job lies ahead.

"It's so emotional that unless we are very careful and very educational and very straightforward, literally, I think, you could see the whole support for what we're trying to do crumble," Mr. Gingrich said.

Meanwhile, the stakes escalate with every passing day as the end of the fiscal

year approaches, which is by custom the time for approving changes such as the proposed restructuring of Medicare and welfare.

Democrats are especially enraged that Republicans unveiled their Medicare proposal so late in the process, allowing only a few days before pushing the plan out of compromise-making committees.

"Right now, quite frankly, we're operating off a press release that they (Republicans) issued yesterday," the White House said Friday. "The devil is in the detail when it comes to these kind of proposals. And we do not have a bill that has been presented to the Republicans yet," he said.

The House proposal would double premiums over seven years, phase out some subsidies for affluent Americans, give participants options for medical coverage, and automatically cut payments to health care providers who fail to meet savings targets.

Simpson prosecution witness casts doubt on defence theory

LOS ANGELES (R) — As prosecutors in the O.J. Simpson trial neared the end of their rebuttal, an FBI expert Friday cast doubt on the defence theory that two assailants committed the murders the former football star is charged with.

William Bodziak, the FBI's top specialist on shoe print evidence, contradicted earlier testimony by a defence scientist that mysterious imprints found at the crime scene could be the bloody shoe prints of a second killer.

Testifying as the prosecution's final witness in the weeklong rebuttal phase of Simpson's trial, Mr. Bodziak said the marks that Dr. Henry Lee, one of the nation's pre-eminent forensic experts, previously referred to were actually defects in the concrete walkway where the murders took place.

Under questioning by chief prosecutor Marcia Clark, Mr. Bodziak also criticised Mr. Lee for basing his observations on his examination of photographs taken of other photographs.

Mr. Bodziak's testimony came as the prosecution prepared to rest its pared-down rebuttal case, a phase in which the government is given a chance to counter testimony presented during the defence case.

The defence refused to rest its case last week while it appealed an unfavourable court ruling, and in an extremely rare move, Judge Lance Ito ordered prosecutors to begin calling rebuttal witnesses to keep the trial on track.

The defence wants to end its case next week with a bang, pitting a FBI scientist against one of his colleagues in an effort to show misconduct in the investigation.

As jurors have grown increasingly restless and surly after more than eight months of sequestration, both sides are speeding up their presentations. The last two witnesses challenged defence claims that several people — Simpson not among them — carried out the slayings of the defendant's ex-wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, and her friend, Ron Goldman, on

June 12, 1994 outside her home.

Prosecutors have maintained from the beginning that Simpson acted alone, slashing the two victims to death on a narrow, shrub-lined walkway.

In lengthy testimony for the defence, Mr. Lee had backed the defence "second killer" theory, pointing to parallel lines found on Goldman's jeans and on pieces of paper at the murder scene along with unexplained marks on the walkway.

But Mr. Bodziak said the only bloody shoe prints at the crime scene were made by a pair of size-12 Bruno Magli shoes such as those prosecutors say Simpson wore the night of the slayings. "There are no other shoe impressions I examined or saw," Mr. Bodziak said after reviewing a series of photographs.

Next week the defence team hopes to call FBI scientist Frederic Whitehurst, a witness they hope will help undermine the credibility of all the FBI crime laboratory analysts who have testified so far.

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For Iraqis, as always

IT IS indeed troubling for us to hear the "case" for tightening the economic noose around Iraq by closing Jordan's borders with its eastern neighbour. Troubling because the issues at stake are not simply the kind of black and white pieces that some are trying to put together but whose piecing could affect the very fabric and history of Jordan and the principles that the Kingdom has followed for decades.

As His Majesty King Hussein said yesterday, Jordan never entertained and will not entertain the thought of closing its borders with Iraq since the Kingdom and its people care for the people of Iraq and are sincerely seeking to alleviate their suffering. No amount of pressure from any source will force Jordan to deviate from its principled stand towards its Arab brethren in their hour of need.

Suggestions that Jordan has changed its policy are necessarily coming out not of a vacuum but from vested interests of some. The King's affirmation, which he has repeated several times since Aug. 8 defection of Hussein Kamel to Jordan, should be a clear message to all those who are trying to fish in murky waters.

Yielding to international pressure that was slowly turning to be a de facto blockade on Jordan itself, we accepted an effective supervision of all goods destined to Iraq passing through Jordanian territory. The acceptance came despite the lopsidedness of the arrangement, clearly visible when we take into account the massive smuggling of goods into Iraq through other countries neighbouring Iraq. Having accepted the arrangement and having proved to the outside world that no contraband goods are entering Iraq through Jordan or that the Kingdom is a conduit for Iraqi products being smuggled out, there is no case against Jordan as far as the international sanctions are concerned.

Only U.N.-approved goods are being allowed to enter Iraq through Jordan and Jordanian exporters must obtain special U.N. Security Council permission to ship local products.

Quite simply, Jordan has in place a strict regime of control that is effective as can be on all trade to Iraq through this country. As for food and medicine, the U.N. itself has exempted them from the sanctions. We cannot therefore deprive Iraqi people of medicine or food or accept to be instrumental in starving our Arab neighbours or denying them medicine.

Jordan's case is strongest when it makes a distinction between Iraq and its people on one hand and its regime on the other. We cannot accept the destruction of Iraq and its people for the sake of changing a regime in Baghdad. The current political structure in Iraq is temporary when viewed in a historical context. Iraq and its people are permanent in historical dimensions. We must keep in focus this distinction when we articulate or adopt policies on our eastern neighbour, and our friends and allies must show more sensitivity to Jordan's dilemma in this vein. Jordan has been and still is the heartland of Arabism and cannot be expected to betray its long-standing ideals and aspirations for some transient considerations.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i Saturday attacked the Libyan leadership for expelling Palestinians from Libya where they contributed to the construction of that country over the past decades. Tareq Masarweh said that the expulsion was tantamount to the policy of "transfer" adopted and implemented by Israel to evict the Palestinians from their homeland and settle them in the desert. By expelling the Palestinians for no reason, Muammar Qadhafi is following in the footsteps of those Arab leaders who brag about their support for the Palestinian cause but in deed find the slightest pretext to persecute the Palestinian people, said the writer. Citing the example of the Shiite militias attacks on Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon, the writer said that Libya is committing a similar crime and finding the excuse of opposing the Palestine Liberation Organisation's policies to carry out its plot.

A COLUMNIST in Al Dustour criticised the United Nations Refugee and Works Agency (UNRWA) for its decision to close the educational sciences college and sacking its dean, saying that the move was in contradiction with the agency's own objectives of providing social and educational and health services to Palestinian refugees. While the agency continues to make excuses for its gradual reduction of these services, it continues to employ an army of foreigners whose combined salaries and other fringe benefits far exceed the allocations for the refugees themselves, said Mohammad Kawash.

Women and China — magic of Beijing '95

By Salwa El Taher

TEASING ME in his typically adolescent manner, my son asked: "Could it be 'divine justice' that situated the women's conference in Beijing?" After all, wasn't it originally meant as an expiation for the Tiananmen Square shootings? I cursed the day I put TIME and NEWSWEEK on his desk, but the fact remained that the news were far from reassuring: A week before our departure for China, our visas were not yet ready; we had been confined by the Chinese government to Huairou, an area 47 kilometres away from Beijing and lacking the most basic facilities. Things seemed to be getting out of hand: the forum had grown so fast and so large that 40,000 women prepared to march down together from all four corners of the world carrying their multifarious agendas to the small village hidden from view.

As it turned out, our worst fears materialised. Was it the fact that we were unprepared and un-oriented, or were we simply guilty of overambition and idealism? The fact is that, as soon as I landed in the great republic I remembered Rex Harrison (in My Fair Lady) singing the glories of women: Suspicious, exacting, interfering and overbearing; disagreeable and disagreeing; Wifal, belligerent, trivial, insensitive... in his own words: A damn nuisance.

Of course, sexism had not yet become a household word then, and Pygmalion could get away with any avalanche of attributes. But, landing in the great republic, I suddenly wondered: did the world somehow weave a "Beijing connection"?

Cultural shock? I had always thought social scientists coined the expression for the sole purpose of annoying us. But, landing in this huge constricting maze where men and women in uniform tried to strip us of papers they had sent us themselves, where everyone constantly kept "having to go to his superior," where our movements were so closely watched I sometimes wondered if my shower was bugged, I very humbly pleaded ignorance.

Having started to travel very young, I had always considered the whole world my domain. Everywhere was home. But I realise now how limited my "world" had been: Europe and America; the West, with whom we had had centuries of love/hate relationships, and constant contact and exchange, even in conflict.

The great republic was a different matter. We had not watched its films avidly for years, we did not know its tunes by heart. Here, all clues seemed to vanish, all means of communications seemed to break down. Finally coming across the sign: "Post office-bank" did not necessarily mean there was any activity going on in the room; using carbon paper to work through 30 slips of papers did not guarantee any copies underneath. Huairou's "business centres" neither knew nor cared about the difference between English and the Morse-code. "International," "rescue words like "doctor," "police," "restaurant," "toilet"... rang absolutely no bell with the populace. One Chinese went as far as telling me: "I know 'taxi' in Chinese, but I don't know it in English." Then there is the never-ending paper work and the sacrosanct nature of every slip. Trying to get a cash refund from a hotel, I was told that one of six papers handed to me upon arrival (4 a.m. in the morning after a two-day plane trip) was missing. Trying to keep my cool — a rather difficult exercise when you're tired, misunderstood and in hurry, I tried to rescue my money by saying: "You know me personally; you possess all the necessary information; can't you act?"

I leave it up to the reader to decide whether this man, who was working a 16-hour shift, made any sense of my proclamation. But take this as a truism: lose a particular paper in China, and you might end up sleeping on the pavement.

As for sign language, please forget it. It does not come in handy. And mean any sign language. The Chinese will not play char-

ade with your or strain to try and understand you. They will most often close up, shut you out, sometime waving you away with their hand, and retreat in their well-guarded shell. Now that I have some hindsight (as well as more food in my stomach and more sense in my head), I am sorry it took me so long to realise that this "curtain down" policy did not spring out of hostility, but rather out of a great sense of helplessness, and a deep-rooted fear of the unfamiliar.

For, once a Chinese decides to like you better, to trust you, he will go out of his way for you. The country has a way of slowly but surely growing on you. The local production has quality and style, at very affordable prices. Your person and your belongings are safe at any time, anywhere. Where else in the world can you ride a taxi alone on a highway at 10 p.m. without fear, without having to call a taxi office, a mini-cab or at least have the registration number recorded? Where else do you get immediately reimbursed if you overpay? Where else do they open their ribbon-closed restaurant at night and start cooking all over again especially for you? Where else are people so civilised that if you happen to lose your temper, they never answer you back? They might fume under their breath, but not once did I get a resentful or disrespectful look or grunt from a Chinese. And if they ever happen to argue amongst themselves, their tones remain measured, state-controlled, for sure, but most especially, self-controlled.

And so it was that the change started to happen, in us, in them. The most baffling entity we had ever come across was beginning to take shape and form. What had struck us first as infuriating, frustrating, stifling and overwhelming (Rex Harrison, here I come!) started to look regimented, of course, but with peeping laxity; closed, expressionless faces began to smile more readily; and, beyond the rigidity that met us, seeped the unparalleled grace that only they knew how to exhibit.

As for the forum itself, there were great discrepancies between workshops, both in content and in management. The Americans as a whole were the most organised, but the most self-centred. The South-East Asians, the most aware, creative and effective, the Africans the most helpless and the Scandinavians the most isolated. We Arabs will have to get feedback on our performance, but realistic self-assessment is imperative. The activities around the workshops, of course, mattered just as much: the side-discussions, the lobbying, the regional meetings, the demonstrations, business cards, personal gifts, sidewalk national products quickly changed hands. But one form of communication, the most silent of all was heard above all shouts and reached beyond all.

Pamphlets. These were the banners woven by women in rural and urban areas all over the planet, entrusting their toil and their art to carry their aspirations to the forum. They were carried around collectively by women, spontaneously relieving each other, enfolding the area in an ever-widening circle of love where — for a brief interval — all nationalities seemed to melt.

Now, don't ask me why booth 38 sat next to booth 6 on the conference site; don't ask me why we often ran two miles to workshops whose sponsors never showed up nor apologised. But do ask me, if you will, how 40,000 women descended suddenly upon this tranquil antihill and worked their way through the barbed wire of some of the most intricate, involved and traumatic topics of the 21st century. (And, at the rate of crisis-resolution, of the third millennium). A certain equation must hold the secret: determination, self-respect, mutual support, awareness, alertness, sensitivity, intuition; knowledge and, of course, relentless efforts. And so it was that the combination between women and China made for the magic that history will record as Beijing '95.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

By Dr. Fahed Al Fanek

Foreign investments in lieu of grants means no peace dividend

IN THEIR pronouncements and talks with Jordan, representatives of Western countries, especially the United States of America, concentrate on the importance and potential of their private sector investments following peace. The reason behind this talk is to avoid living up to their explicit and implicit commitments and promises to us that peace will bear economic dividends which the man in the street will feel. The present verbal promotion of foreign investments is meant to replace direct financial grants which are badly needed to make the benefits of peace felt by the public.

Foreign spokesmen, especially the Americans, preach to us day and night about the importance of improving the investment climate as a justification of the fact that their private sectors are not forthcoming when it comes to investment in Jordan. The end result is that we remain without investments from foreign private sectors and without grants from foreign governments; in other words, we remain without peace dividends.

The main disappointment is, of course, directed at America, the self-appointed sponsor of the peace process. We are made to believe that there is near civil war in Washington between the administration, which is eager to help us, and the Congress, which has a single-minded objective: namely to reduce the deficit and balance the budget. It is of course, a fictitious war with no casualties except ourselves. In this respect, we should point out that the administration did not recommend any meaningful assistance to Jordan except for the write-off of debt, the collection of which was at best doubtful.

The crux of the problem, as we see it, is that the United States has been paying over \$5 billion annually to Israel and Egypt since their peace treaty was signed in 1979, and will continue to pay similar amounts in the future, irrespective of the drive to balance the budget. One should ask, then, why President Clinton

could not ask for more than \$7.2 million to help Jordan economically in its 1996 budget. Is this token amount proportionate to the weight of our contribution to peace as he sees it?

Excuses we hear should be dismissed as not convincing. The balancing of the budget becomes irrelevant as soon as \$13 billion are allocated to foreign aid. Assuming that Israel is a special case, what is applicable to Egypt should be applicable to Jordan. If some parties to peace, such as Egypt, deserve to be assisted, we should be told why such assistance could not be extended to Jordan and why our share should be no more than some advice regarding the importance of foreign investments and improving the climate of investments.

We would be deceiving ourselves if we believed for a moment that the Amman economic summit and conference scheduled for late next month would secure for Jordan investments which would improve the quality of life, raise the standard of living, alleviate poverty and reduce unemployment. People do not survive on impressive speeches, intellectual dialogue and receptions during summits. Most of our infrastructural projects need public sector funds because they do not appeal to the private sector, be it domestic or foreign. The only source for such funds is foreign grants. Borrowing is out of the question because we are already overburdened with debt. Domestic savings are very shallow, and the level of taxes has reached an upper limit.

Let us, then, call a spade a spade. America has misled us and let us down. It treats us as an ally, but one that is taken for granted; and not only that. As an ally, America took the liberty of pressuring us to take action against Iraq which may cost us over \$1 billion a year, or a full 17 per cent of our gross domestic product (GDP), without anybody in the State Department losing sleep.

Russia's sympathy for Serbia damages relations with West

By Deborah Seward
The Associated Press

MOSCOW — The NATO bombing of the Bosnian Serbs has aroused the Russian bear to anger like no other issues since the end of the cold war, stirring suspicion and antagonism towards the West.

Russian officials have condemned the bombing campaign as genocide, lawmakers have volunteered to act as "human shields," and the public, usually apathetic about political issues, has come out against the airstrikes.

At the heart of Russia's emotional response to the fate of the Serbs is deep dismay over its perceived loss of great power status and a feeling NATO is intruding on what Russia historically considered its sphere of influence.

Much of Russia's anger also stems from a feeling its proposals to end the war have been totally ignored and frustration at the failure of its own diplomacy.

Russia has few strategic interests in the Balkans. But it does have a historical attachment to the region that dates back hundreds of years and has sought to restore cultural and religious links to the Bosnian Serbs that suffered during the cold war.

The bombing appears to have pushed Russia — already deeply concerned by NATO's plans to expand eastwards — over the edge. The airstrikes provide Russians a way, at least verbally, to beat up on the West.

"Russia is pushed to the side, is not allowed to fully participate in Balkan affairs, and that encroaches on its great power status," wrote Literaturnaya Gazeta, using capital letters to emphasise its dismay.

"You can understand that the United States always wants to be number one in the world," the newspaper wrote. "They have a lot of money and we're flat broke."

Some Russian media have suggested the CIA was actually behind the bombing of the Sarajevo marketplace last month that led to the bombings, and insinuated that NATO has conspired with the U.N. behind Russia's back.

President Boris Yeltsin and his unpopular government have tried to cash in on public outrage over the bombing, which has been widely condemned by parliament, the pub-

lic and even Mr. Yeltsin's enemies.

"NATO in fact has departed from the search for a political settlement of the problem and staked itself on the use of force," former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev said this week in a statement. "This is an evil path leading to the past, to nowhere."

But Mr. Gorbachev, no friend of Mr. Yeltsin, also criticised the Russian leadership for its emotional response to the bombings, saying they were not helping the situation.

Mr. Yeltsin's heated attack on NATO at a news conference last week is echoed by his countrymen.

In a poll of 1989 Muscovites last week, 62.3 per cent of respondents condemned the airstrikes. Nearly one-third said NATO was an enemy organisation. The poll, conducted by Mnenie Opinion Research Service, had a margin of error of plus or minus 3 per cent.

"It's bad. They are destroying a whole nation," Igor Leonov, a young Russian salesman said. "NATO is not God to decide who lives and dies."

Mr. Leonov and other Russians, who like the Serbs are Orthodox Christians and Slavs, believe their country should help the Serbs. But few people seem to believe Russia is in a position to provide military aid.

"We should help the Serbs. We are one faith. They are Slavs too. How to help is difficult," Mr. Leonov said. "I don't think we should get involved in war because we don't have the strength to win."

"With our poverty, how could we possibly help?" asked Vladimir Tabachnikov, a Russian businessman.

The communist newspaper Pravda published a story Thursday on Bosnia headlined, "Today Serbia, tomorrow Russia."

Apart from humanitarian aid and waves of emotional rhetoric, it seems there is little financially strapped Russia could do to help.

The Russian military is in shambles and after its abysmal performance in Chechnya. And even on the diplomatic front, despite expressions of brotherhood, the Bosnian Serbs have listened but never really followed Russian recommendations on the war.

LETTERS

Wrong side of tourism

To the Editor:

RECENTLY I went on a trip to Aqaba with some friends. There was the usual four-hour-long bus ride and, of course, the short stop for refreshments. This is where I got the "inspiration" to write this letter.

As I stood in the usual, pushy crowd around the cashier I saw a confused old man who was obviously a foreigner, trying to sort out a handful of coins. Then, triumphantly reaching the cashier, he asked for an ice-cream stick, which, to my surprise, the man at the cash asked 750 fils for.

I know that tourist places like this were a bit more expensive, but 450 fils more, that was absurd.

I finally realised there was something really wrong when an American woman paid JD 1 for a Pepsi I had just paid 350 fils for and another woman, who had no dinars, ended up paying \$2 for.

My friend and I asked the man how much each of the mentioned items cost (in Arabic of course) and he said 350 fils for each. As another lady willingly paid her dues, we asked the man at the cash if he thought it was wrong. His answer was: "For these people, no." He then gave us a hostile look and asked us to leave.

We followed the poor women out and told them to be careful, explaining what had just happened. They said that when they were told they did not have to change their dollars into dinars they knew they were going to be ripped off.

We only wonder why one would still want to be a tourist in Jordan.

Tamara Faouri,
Amman.

'Educate, practise and enforce'

To the Editor:

WHY ALL this nuisance day after day about Jordanian driving habits? As a foreigner, I am loathe to criticise our hosts whom I admire and respect greatly. But if there is one sure way to raise blood pressure and start explosives flowing, it is driving in Jordan. (Without wishing to belittle the excellent article "Why neglect a major killer?" (Jordan Times, Sept. 11) which discussed the causes of heart attacks, perhaps it should have, along with smoking and "mansaf, included driving habits).

As with other environmental and health issues, the answer lies in education through schools, media and driving establishments. All people must be educated in road safety. (I will not now begin to talk about children playing and people walking in the middle of the roads, which would raise many other issues).

Drivers should be trained and rigorously tested in their knowledge and application of a comprehensive and up-to-date highway code before being granted a licence. In addition, the highway police, (who currently may be found in low speed zones, lurking around corners or hiding under bridges or alternatively bringing the traffic to a standstill on major roundabouts) must also be educated to enforce the code which has been laid down.

In conclusion, we do not need to psychoanalyse society and its morals. We need to educate, practise and enforce.

Sheila Puri,
Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

King: Jordan's policy is consistent

(Continued from page 1)

refuge here. "The fact that (General Kamel) came here testifies to Jordan's long-term bonds with Iraq and to this country's credibility," he said. "Were we supposed to get upset had he gone to another Arab country? It is really an open question why Jordan was subjected to criticism (over the defection). But it is a fact that those who are accusing us of interfering in others' internal affairs are themselves those who excelled in this business."

In reply to a remark that some Arab countries may be trying to marginalize Jordan's regional role the King said: "Our role is much greater than our size as a state and we are known to be honest and say what is right." He stressed that Jordan is not after forming axes in the region but rather aims at integration and cooperation with all Arabs.

Asked to comment on meetings between Syria and Iran, and Syria, and Egypt, in the wake of the defection of General Kamel, the King said he would rather decline comment on such contacts and their aims.

The King dismissed talk of pressure being exerted on Jordan, following the defection, to join an anti-Saddam coalition, saying there has not been and there will not be pressures against Jordan.

"We will not succumb to pressure from any quarter," he said. "We follow our convictions, and in any way exaggeration in accusing others of exercising pressures on us undermines our belief in ourselves and touches our credibility. We have never given to pressure, even in the most difficult of circumstances."

In a reply to a question on what Jordan could do to help the Iraqis, short of interfering in Iraq's internal affairs, the King said: "I do not have a magic solution. But the least we could do is to shed light on what is happening inside the country."

The King said that even his repeated calls for dialogue to settle the Iraq problem beginning with pinpointing what the root cause of the problem seemed to have been deliberately misinterpreted.

He recalled that "we needed to know, especially the influential powers, about Iraq. Does the problem lie with the regime with Iraq?"

If such a call, he said, can be interpreted as "interference in the internal affairs of Iraq, we ought to know."

The King cited the example of Haiti, where the regime was removed without bloodshed and violence despite a massive initial U.N. military effort, and noted that political dialogue had ended the problem rather than military moves.

"We have called for dialogue and contacts, and we gave the example of Haiti, of how the U.N. mobilised arms and expressed readiness to save democracy or bring about its rebirth."

"In the last minute political figures were asked to mediate with the officials in Haiti, with the result that the operation was carried out without bloodshed. What about the people of Iraq in such a case?"

"We have never stopped for a moment during all these years in defending Iraq and its right to life," said the

King. However, he noted, Iraq's credibility itself has been brought to question.

"Naturally there were factors which affected Iraq's credibility," said the King. "If we consider the weapons of mass destruction for instance, (we find that) Iraq used to say that it did not possess a certain weapon or that it did not develop weapons, then it changes its position."

On the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty, the King rejected assertions that it had set back democracy in Jordan. On the contrary, the King noted, the peace treaty went through the Jordanian constitutional and democratic process and was endorsed by the Kingdom's elected parliament before it took effect. As such, the entire process had added strength to democracy in Jordan, he said, also pointing out that Jordan's very decision to join the Middle East peace process launched in Madrid came after a national conference endorsed the move.

"Peace never posed an obstacle to democracy," the King said.

The King spoke about the expulsion of Egyptian and Palestinian workers from Libya as an example of the deteriorating state of affairs in Arab relations. He said that the Palestinians who have been expelled are now stranded in the desert and out at sea, with no Arab country willing to give them refuge.

"We cannot change our stand regarding our commitments to the Arab Nation just as we cannot conspire against others because this is not our policy. We have been affected by all the developments and the dangers that have faced our nation. If there is no value to the Arab person this would lead to explosions throughout the Arab World," the King said.

His Majesty said he expected relations with Saudi Arabia to improve further. "Jordan's relations with the Gulf states are going in the right direction and we hope to receive the Saudi ambassador soon while a summit meeting (with King Fahd) could be held at a later stage. Such meeting will remove all the harmful elements that have adversely affected Arab relations," the King said.

In reply to another question concerning the meetings held in Amman to discuss the question of displaced Palestinians and their repatriation, the Monarch said that delay in settling the question of repatriating them was due to a variety of reasons. "I pushed for a solution and will continue to do so," he said.

Referring to internal affairs the King said that the Kingdom was now preparing for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit, "which we hope will contribute to the development of the whole region and not Jordan alone. We hope that this conference will help bring about a major benefit for the future generations. I am very optimistic about the outcome of the conference."

Referring to the performance of Parliament, the King voiced his satisfaction in general, noting in particular that Parliament has been dealing promptly with new laws. He also expressed satisfaction with the close cooperation among the executive, legislative and judicial authorities.

King Hussein said he was keen on keeping the media in the picture with regards to political developments but that the journalists also had responsibilities to shoulder. "I frankly wish from my brothers here to seek out the truth through their own channels as true journalists and also to realise the great role which Jordan is playing. You should realise that our sole aim is to offer service to the Arab Nation and to set a good example to others."

The King added: "May I frankly point out that at the media level we have been constantly losing battles as a result of confusion which characterises our attitude though I personally and every state official are close to you. I hope that you will exert more efforts so as to rise to the required level and carry out your duties."

Israel, PLO in intense push

(Continued from page 1)

However, serious sticking points remain and a senior Israeli defence ministry spokesman did not rule out yet another missed deadline in the next phase of self-rule.

Israeli military radio said Mr. Peres would present Mr. Arafat with a compromise proposal he drew up with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, Chief-of-Staff Amnon Shahak and chief Israeli negotiator Uri Savir.

Under the plan, the Israeli army and police would keep ultimate control of security in the town but give greater powers to the Palestinian police who would be responsible for security in Palestinian areas of Hebron.

The PLO has insisted that any Israeli presence must be severely limited in both numbers and time. The Palestinians also want to set down the exact bound-

aries of areas to remain initially under Israeli control, such as military bases and Jewish settlements, so they are not allowed to expand.

Another stumbling-block is Israel's refusal to set free immediately the Palestinians held in its jails.

Mr. Peres said he would ask the PLO leader for "guarantees that the autonomous areas will not be allowed to turn into safe havens for terrorists on the run."

"It doesn't matter whether terrorists are in prison in Israel or in the autonomous zones, as long as they are jailed for the crimes they have committed against Israelis," he said.

Israel said meanwhile, it arrested three Palestinians for the murder of a Palestinian man in the West Bank whose killing had been claimed by an extremist Jew-

ish group. "The police serious crimes unit and the (West Bank) police in conjunction with the GSS (General Security Service) and the army have uncovered the perpetrators of the murder of Salman Zamari in Halhoul," a police spokesman said.

Three men, all residents of the West Bank town, were arrested and a fourth suspect whose identity was known to police was being sought, he said.

The murder was apparently committed on a criminal background and some of the suspects were cooperating with police, he added.

Following the killing last week an Israeli extremist group named Eyal said it shot dead Zamari, 25, at his home in Halhoul, near Hebron. Palestinian sources said a group of masked men in Israeli army uniforms who spoke Hebrew killed Zamari.

Parties are a must - leaders

(Continued from page 12)

"I am pained to say that if we continue this way, the democratisation experience will be in danger in the future," he said, noting that it does not serve the interests of Arab "despots" to have a democratic model in Jordan.

"Those claiming democracy in the Western world want it for their people, not for us, because they know their interests will be harmed by the success of democracy in our countries," Mr. Khreisha concluded.

Al Watan (homeland) Party Secretary General Bahjat Al Majali dealt with obstacles facing political parties in Jordan, whether those posed by the government, by citizens or by political parties themselves.

Mr. Majali said the government was not serious in dealing with political parties, adding that it does not consult them in any matter of national interest.

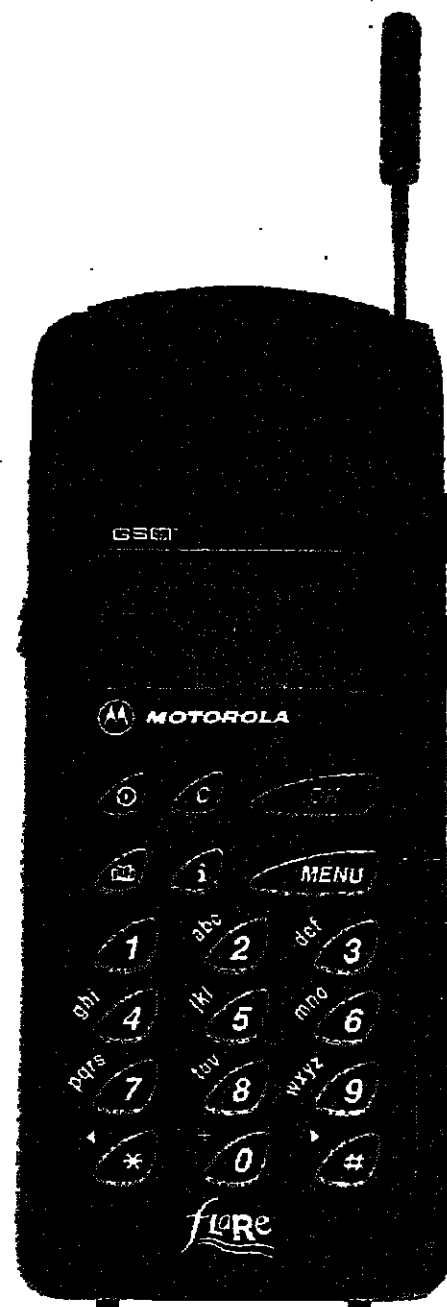
He said the government harasses some political party members and does not allow them the chance to use the mass media to express their views.

Mr. Majali admitted that the Jordanian political parties were still novice and suffering from financial problems and are unable to draft convincing platforms to deal with national problems.

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Serbs tardy; NATO alert

(Continued from page 1)

ernment troops had overrun the town of Kljuc, encircled Bosanski Krupa and were marching on Sanski Most. Serb authorities in the northern town of Banja Luka reported that Croat forces were also closing on Kljuc and Mrkonjic Grad and that government troops were continuing attacks in the Mount Ozren region.

U.N. officials reported between 10,000 and 15,000 Serb refugees in Banja Luka, the north-central Serb stronghold, with around 40,000 more on the road, fleeing offensives by government troops or Bosnian Croat militias.

Some people slept in the open, despite rain. Refugees ignored pleas by authorities to go to other towns, panicked that they also might fall.

The situation in Banja Luka is very difficult and chaotic," said Alekma Lisinski, a U.N. refugee agency spokeswoman in Zagreb, Croatia. "There are people with cars, horse carts, sheep herds and tractors in every street, making Banja Luka one huge traffic jam."

Bosnian radio said that government troops on Saturday entered Kljuc, less than 50 kilometres southwest of Banja Luka.

Mr. Guinness, the U.N. spokesman, said there were unconfirmed reports that Serbs had slaughtered Muslim villagers in the Donji Vakuf area.

Donji Vakuf, about 80 kilometres southwest of Sarajevo, is one of the towns recently retaken from the Serbs by government forces taking advantage of the NATO airstrikes. Mr. Guinness said they and the Bosnian Croats had made "significant gains" to the West, along the Croatian border.

The gains have brought Serb-controlled territory down to about 58 per cent of the country, according to new intelligence reports cited by another U.N. official in Sarajevo.

Capturing Kljuc and the rest of the road to Jajce, 40 kilometres to the southeast, would bring a decent paved road between the northwest Bihać enclave and most government-held territory in central Bosnia under the control of the Sarajevo regime.

Bank of Lebanon to continue defending lira

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon's central bank will continue its policy of defending the Lebanese lira on the Beirut foreign exchange market, Bank of Lebanon governor Riad Salameh was quoted Saturday as saying.

"The bank will stay in the foreign exchange market to defend the Lebanese lira's exchange rate," As Safir daily quoted Mr. Salameh as saying at a meeting Friday with officials of Lebanon's Banks Association grouping Beirut's 82 banks.

Mr. Salameh's remark came a day after a grouping of Lebanese businessmen said in a report that the bank should stop intervening regularly on the foreign exchange market as soon as possible to allow for a real market to emerge.

The Bank of Lebanon often intervenes on the market selling U.S. dollars to defend the lira, especially in times of political crisis which usually witness a flight from the local to the American currency.

The policy of defending the lira depleted the central bank's net foreign exchange reserves by more than \$1 billion between January and June.

Asked about the usefulness of such a policy that was

depleting the bank's reserves, Mr. Salameh replied:

"I am not afraid of more defence of the lira if the 1996 public budget comes out as it should come out, especially as there will be remittances (from abroad) that have begun to flow again."

Mr. Salameh said there was an agreement with the ministry of finance on lowering all items in the 1996 budget draft "so that the deficit would not exceed 40 per cent for any reason."

He said he was relieved for the disappearance of selling pressure on the lira witnessed recently. The run was caused by a political crisis between Prime Minister Rafik Al Hariri and Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri that was solved last week.

In a second step to boost the lira, Mr. Salameh said he was in contact with the ministries of finance, and economy and trade, to take measures forcing merchants to use the local currency in transactions.

Meanwhile, Mr. Hariri has responded to criticism of his ambitious plan to rebuild post-war Lebanon by saying that the project's benefits will be felt gradually.

"I stress that the yield of most projects we have begun to build will appear gradual-

ly," Mr. Hariri was quoted by local newspapers as telling a delegation of Beirut dignitaries Friday.

"We are concentrating on everything that will reactivate the economic situation and consolidate it, and this includes looking after local industry to raise production and establishing industrial free zones and free zones in all areas," he added.

The Lebanese Businessmen's Association (LBA) Friday slammed Mr. Hariri's Horizon Plan, which will cost up to \$18 billion over 12 years, saying it was too extravagant and should be cut back.

The plan to rebuild after the ravages of the 1975-90 civil war was not sufficient to boost the economy without an accompanying economic and social programme, LBA added.

Mr. Hariri, responding to LBA warnings of a worsening balance of payments and trade deficits as well as depending debt, said the Lebanese economy was growing at a good rate.

Measures implemented by the two governments he headed since first coming to power in October 1992 were giving positive results that were being felt by Lebanese, Mr. Hariri added.

Economic targets set for easing women's poverty

BEIJING (AFP) — The Platform for Action adopted by U.N. states here Friday paints a distressing tableau of poverty afflicting hundreds of millions of women, and calls for a two-pronged effort to ease their plight.

"More than one billion people in the world today, the great majority of whom are women, live in unacceptable conditions of poverty, mostly in the developing countries," it says.

"In the past decade, the number of women living in poverty has increased disproportionately to the number of men... the feminisation of poverty has also recently become a significant problem in the countries with economies in transition," it adds.

While admitting that poverty is a "complex, multi-dimensional problem," the document calls for macro-economic efforts to ease structural deficiencies, such as debt — but also for work at the grass-roots, such as financing for small enterprises run by women.

Its main recommendations:

— More resources from the big multilateral aid agencies, such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, but also from national governments and the private sector, for projects that target women in poverty. No figures are specified.

— That wealthy countries carry out "the immediate implementation" of the 1994 Paris Club agreements which provide for debt forgiveness or reduction for poorer countries. That the industrialised world, "develop techniques" to convert debt repayments into specific projects for poorer women.

— That poorer countries pursue "sound and stable macro-economic and sectoral policies... (that) encourage broad-based sustained economic growth." Those groups vulnerable to the impact of tough policies should be given help.

— That legal and administrative hurdles that block women in some countries from owning or inheriting land or gaining access to credit be removed.

Sudan's labour chief appeals for better wages for workers

KHARTOUM, Sudan (AP) — The head of Sudan's trade unions federation has appealed for the government to improve workers' salaries to help them cope with rising food prices.

The appeal by Al Sir Hassan Abdoun came as calm returned to Khartoum after days of anti-government rioting.

Deepening economic problems in Sudan may have contributed to the unrest.

Consumer prices have been rising at a 58 per cent annual rate, and in recent weeks there have been shortages of bread, a staple in the Sudanese diet.

Mr. Abdoun said workers' salaries had not kept pace with prices, which have risen sharply since 1992 when the government of Lieutenant General Omar El Bashir began to try to liberalise the economy.

Under his economic reform programme, a number of government-owned companies have been sold and the prices of commodities have been left to the marketplace.

But the reform efforts have been hurt by a lack of help

from outside. Sudan is getting no aid from world institutions like the International Monetary Fund because it failed to pay past debts. And Western nations, which have been critical of Sudan's human rights record, have cut all but emergency aid.

Mr. Abdoun called for "liberalising salaries and wages so that they will match prices liberalisations and, therefore, guarantee a decent life for workers."

Salaries average about 10,000 Sudanese pounds (\$17) per month in Khartoum.

In the past two weeks, the price of traditional Arab bread has risen to 30 pounds (5 cents) from 20 pounds (3.5 cents) and the government is expected to announce a further increase this week.

The government blames higher prices for wheat purchased on the international market, in some cases up 40 per cent.

Most families subsist on vegetables, fruits, bread and various grains. Meat at 1,000 pounds (\$1.7) is out of reach for most people.

World Bank: \$1.5 trillion needed for Asian infrastructure

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Developing countries in Asia will need to invest \$1.2 to \$1.5 trillion in infrastructure over the next decade, according to a World Bank report. China represents 51 per cent of those needs, followed by Korea (18 per cent), Indonesia (11 per cent), Thailand (10 per cent), Malaysia and the Philippines (three per cent), according to the report.

"Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific: Toward a New Public-Private Partnership." The investment input is needed to sustain economic growth, made up for inadequate past investment, and cope with massive urbanisation and the globalisation of world trade. The report said the public sector had neither the resources nor the organisational capacity to come up with the massive investment needed — and that the private sector would have to pick up the slack.

Private infrastructure has paid off, the report said, in China, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines in such areas as telecommunications, energy and toll roads.

Turkey hikes consumer charge to curb inflation

ANKARA (R) — Turkey raised charges imposed on consumer credits Friday, pushing ahead with a 10-day drive to cool the economy and restrain inflation.

A resource utilisation and support fund charge on consumer credits rose by four percentage points to 10 per cent.

The credit tightening, designed to curb domestic demand and slow economic growth, is one of the measures taken in line with International Monetary Fund (IMF) advice since Sept. 5.

The Turkish central bank has stopped purchasing foreign currency from banks and increased overnight borrowing rates on the lira inter-bank.

The Turkish lira has appreciated by 1.5 per cent against a currency basket, made up of one dollar and 1.5 marks, since Sept. 4.

The IMF recommendation

follows Turkey's gross national product (GNP) showing a big 12.4 per cent increase in the second quarter of 1995, following a 6.1 per cent contraction in 1994 and 0.3 per cent fall in the first quarter of this year.

Monthly inflation remained above expectations in the June-August period when the central bank, urged by exporters, let the lira depreciate.

The bank, trying to halt excessive liquidity injection into the economy through short-term foreign capital inflow, has also imposed a six per cent charge on banks' foreign borrowing deals.

Attractive margins between high domestic interest rates and relatively lower depreciation created a firm ground for an increased short-term foreign capital inflow.

"It was not the right time to brake the economy,"

Orhan Emirdag, general manager of private Pamukbank, told Reuters.

He said he believed there was no reason to worry about inflation, which slowed to 80.3 per cent in August from a high of 156 per cent in January.

But treasury chief Ayfer Yilmaz said: "Such measures are taken in every country which implements tight monetary policy."

She told reporters the major aim of the operation was to reduce inflation which had already exceeded the year-on-year 1995 target of 40 per cent.

The 1995 GNP growth may also overshoot the target of 3.1 per cent. Economists expect the growth rate to hit six per cent.

"Markets have received signals of the tight monetary policy. They will reach a balance soon," Mr. Yilmaz said.

Iran beats currency crisis but high debts loom

DUBAI (R) — Iran has weathered a crisis of confidence in its currency but now faces a key credibility test in its ability to repay huge foreign debts over the next year, diplomats say.

The Iranian rial's value against the dollar has recovered since May when the government, facing a currency crisis fuelled by U.S. President Bill Clinton's announcement of trade sanctions against Iran, reassured stringent control over currency dealing and capital flows out of the country.

Diplomats say Tehran stopped the run on the rial, which threatened to take monthly double digit inflation to even more uncomfortable levels, by arresting unofficial exchange dealers and beefing up border controls.

"A feeling that everything was out of control is now

over... some peace has been restored," a Western diplomat in the Iranian capital said.

Diplomats and bankers in Tehran said Iran has to pay the principal and interest of rescheduled debts amounting to between \$5 billion and \$6 billion in 1996, nearly half of its budgeted oil revenues.

Iran's ability to attract fresh international funding to finance its 1995-2000 development plan, the continuation of a reform programme started by President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, will hinge on repayment performance next year, diplomats say.

Although a black market for rials still exists at about 4,000 to the dollar, above the official central bank (markazi) rate of 3,000-3,015 to the dollar, it is far off the rate of 7,000 rials seen at the height

of May's currency breakdown.

"Prices are being controlled. Prices are not going down but a monthly inflation rate as high as 20 per cent is being cut," said Fariborz Raisdana, senior researcher at the Higher Research Institute for Economy and Industry in Tehran.

Foreign creditors are watching state control of inflation through the rial and also a policy of restricting imports to keep foreign exchange to meet international debt obligations.

Though Iran has oil exports of 2.5 million barrels

per day (b/d) — second only to those of Saudi Arabia — nearly half of the budgeted \$13.5 billion oil revenue will have to be diverted to debt repayment.

Iranian officials hope non-oil export revenue of \$4.5 billion in the last Iranian year (March 1994-March 1995) will grow this year despite new rules that forces most non-oil exporters to purchase hard currency at the new 3,000 rial-dollar rate and repatriate all hard currency earnings to the central bank.

"Non-oil exports have been hit by the new rules and industry does not have

enough raw materials because of the import clamp-down," a diplomat adding that the Iranian economy needed structural reform.

Even though oil earnings are currently above budget doubts loom over the outlook for 1996 revenues by talk in OPEC circles the group will not be able to raise its quotas next year because of increased production in non-OPEC countries such as Norway.

Economists are also forecasting a two per cent fall in Iran's GDP this year, which would make it one of the worst economic performers in the Middle East.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 1995

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Foundation Astrological Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You have many fine ideas which can bring you closer to your goals today, so utilise them to your best advantage.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Meditate for a while today and let your hunches rise to the surface and you will know what is best to do later tonight.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Some worldly situation may arise which can please you very much today. Turn it to your greatest advantage.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Plan how to organise your tasks for later today so that you can get excellent results for you to succeed.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Expand in activities during the daytime and be successful in whatever you are doing. Show more affection for your mate.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Sitting down with your family and discussing how to have more accord for today and tonight is wise. Invite guests into your home.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Plan whatever you want to do later today and discuss ideas with those who can be of assistance to you.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You have fine ideas how to improve your property and add to their value, especially if multiple properties.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You are highly magnetic and can make a fine impression on others today. Schedule the new week's activities.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Plan how to get better results in your chosen vocation. Show that you are thoughtful and kind towards those you come in contact.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Be your gregarious self today and draw many a friend closer to you. Think and be happy and active towards good friends.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Wander idly about town today and you can gain many cherished wishes and can show your finest capabilities. Ask for favours.

Birthstone of September: Sapphire — Lapis Lazuli

THE Daily Crossword by Don Johnson

ACROSS

1 Book of the Bible

5 Mardi —

9 Spire

14 Writer Harte

15 General haste

16 Earthy mineral

17 Topnotch

18 Certain pillar

19 Steps for crossing over a fence

20 Lottery

23 Senator Kennedy

24 Snare

25 Harden: var.

27 Venomous snakes

30 Forced out, as lava

33 Detection equipment

37 Hawaiian feast

39 Thurber's "The — Animal"

40 Musical work

41 Good golf score

42 Words of understanding

43 Helper: abbr.

44 Pried sub.

45 Additional

46 Hinders

48 Italia's city

50 System of belief

52 Earn

57 Gone by

59 Eliminates undesirable people

62 Embankment

64 Too bad!

65 Not working

66 Continuously

67 Alaskan city

68 German art song

69 Analyze grammatically

70 Beginning

71 Drunkards

DOWN

1 Lower in rank

2 Miter

Yesterday's puzzle solved:

RAJA AMATI BIRD

ORAL COLON ABOU

VICE QUEENSLAND

ELK TUNE EZRIAS

AVOID OKRA

TENANT OVERCOAT

IRANI SPINY UNE

TAPE SLANT STIR

ATE ATALE POOLS

NOSEGAYS COFFEE

MAYS CHEAP

STATIN TROT LAP

KING ARTHUR MACE

ITOR ERODE ECHO

NONE SIREN TEEN

- 47 Slope backward
- 49 Gathered
- 51 College heads
- 53 Labors hard
- 54 Pertaining to sound
- 55 Key
- 56 Things lacking
- 57 Cockeyed
- 58 — Rowlands of movies
- 60 Healing herb
- 61 Accuse
- 63 Nav. off.

THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen

"Sometimes you're the wind beneath my wings and sometimes you're just wind."

Peanuts

WHAT IF WE RUN INTO THE RED BARON WHILE WE'RE UP HERE?

DON'T WORRY... HE ALWAYS SHOTS LOW.

Andy Cap

CONGRATULATIONS, MASTER CAP!

OH, IT'S NOTHING REALLY. MISSUS!

SUCCESS DOESN'T CHANGE HIM, DOES IT FLO?

WHY SHOULD I? I'VE ALWAYS KNOWN I WAS GREAT

Mutt'n'Jeff

JEFF, WE GOTTA BE FUNNY!

WHY?

WHY? TO MAKE PEOPLE LAUGH!

WHY?

TO MAKE THEM FEEL GOOD!

SOMEBODY SICK?

HOPELESS!

World Bank: \$5 trillion needed for Asian infrastructure

WASHINGTON (AP) — The World Bank is expected to announce a \$5 trillion package of loans and grants to help Asian countries rebuild their infrastructure after the damage caused by the Asian financial crisis.

The package is expected to be announced in the next few weeks, according to a senior World Bank official. The package would be the largest in the bank's history, and would be aimed at helping Asian countries rebuild their infrastructure after the damage caused by the Asian financial crisis.

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Business daily beat

A review of economic news from the Arab press

Khatib reviews tourism problems and plans

Amman (JTA) — Tourism Minister Abdul Elah Al Khatib, reviewing the tourism sector, said that the tourism sector is suffering from a number of problems, including the lack of infrastructure, the lack of marketing, and the lack of investment. He said that the government is planning to address these problems by investing in infrastructure, marketing, and investment.

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Costs drive car factories out of Germany

FRANKFURT (AFP) — Mercedes-Benz has turned the harsh spotlight on costs and the rise of the mark by announcing a big investment in Brazil.

The decision by Mercedes-Benz to invest 600 million marks (\$408 million) in a new factory in Brazil is part of a trend among German car manufacturers to escape from high labour costs in Germany and the strength of the mark.

"Made in Germany" has come to mean that the product cannot compete against vehicles made elsewhere in Europe or the United States.

The president of Mercedes-Benz, Helmut Werner, said that the new Brazilian factory would produce 900,000 of the new A-class model for the South American market.

The company wanted to increase the proportion of cars made abroad from 10 per cent to 25 per cent of the total within eight to 10 years, he said.

At the beginning of this year the company stirred controversy in Germany by deciding to build its new Smart car, developed with the Swiss

Swatch watch company, at Hambach-Sarregrubens in France instead of in Germany.

The company said that labour at the plant in France cost less and was more flexible than in Germany.

"Made in Germany" is to become "Made in Mercedes" as a means of maintaining an image of high quality.

German car manufacturers have not yet transferred production abroad on a massive scale but they talk readily of "globalisation" of production and sales.

Volkswagen, the biggest European car manufacturer, has opted instead to acquire foreign companies in difficult situations such as Seat in Spain or Skoda in the Czech Republic.

The investment in Spain has run into severe financial problems and a rescue is under way.

On Wednesday the Commission of the European Union sought comments from industry and EU members states about Spanish public aid for a restructuring of the company.

BMW acquired the British Rover company in March

1994 and has decided to build a new factory in the United States.

The president of the German federation of car manufacturers VDA, Erika Emmerich, said that the rise of the mark coupled with an increase of 4.0 per cent in pay in Germany this year, had "given new meaning to the risks attached to producing cars in Germany."

The German car industry sold 55 per cent of its production worth 123 billion marks, abroad in 1994 but when the mark rises, the price of German cars on export markets also rises.

Mrs. Emmerich said that she was worried about the effects of the trend to produce abroad because in Germany a job in seven depended directly or indirectly on the car industry.

In Germany, average pay in the industry in 1994 was 57 marks (\$39) per hour. This was nearly double the rate in France, Spain and Italy, the VDA said.

German manufacturers are negotiating hard with trade unions to increase the flexibility of working schedules.

Adam Opel A.G., a subsidiary of the U.S. company General Motors, recently reached such an agreement with its employees in what it said was the first arrangement of its type in the German car industry.

Under the arrangement, employees will work 30-38.75 hours per week over four or five days in a way which will be adjusted to the amount of orders without affecting monthly pay.

On Tuesday Volkswagen agreed with the I.G. Metall union that its staff may work up to 38.8 hours per week depending on orders.

A VW official said that an overall agreement was needed to permit an employee to work up to 66 hours per week if he wanted.

"Flexibility pays," he said. "At BMW we have abolished work per particular task. Individual performance is now more important than presence at work and an employee doing more for the company, will logically receive higher pay."

He said laboratory tests on the chicken served by KFC were carried out following complaints from the public.

Sandeep Kohli, managing director of the PepsiCo Restaurants-India, the local arm of U.S.-based PepsiCo Inc., rejected the charges that KFC was using more of the popular food additive than specified by India's Prevention of Food Adulteration Act.

"MSG is used as a flavouring agent in Europe, the United States and other countries and nobody has a problem," he told reporters.

"MSG is an additive in some of our products but it is well below one per cent," Mr. Kohli said, calling for independent tests.

He said his company remained "bullish" on India and would go ahead with plans to invest \$80 million over the next seven years, opening KFC outlets in Bombay, New Delhi and other cities.

Japan to lend Syria \$565m

DAMASCUS (R) — Japan agreed to grant Syria a \$565 million soft loan in talks between Japanese Prime Minister Tomichi Murayama and Syrian President Hafez Al Assad in Damascus Saturday, a Japanese official said.

The official said the \$8.854 billion yen (\$565) loan was agreed to finance a thermal power plant project which would boost Syria's electricity generation capacity to meet demand increasing at 20 per

cent annually. He said the project, involving the construction of thermal generators able to run both on fuel oil and natural gas, would have a capacity of producing 600 megawatts. It would be located some 200 kilometres north of Damascus.

The loan is the third to be extended by Japan to Syria. One loan amounting to \$1.598 billion yen (\$495 million) was granted in 1991 and

it financed a thermal power plant in central Syria. An earlier loan, amounting to \$29.63 billion yen (\$284 million), financed an expansion plan at the Banias power plant on the Mediterranean in 1986.

The Japanese official said the Syrian government had been paying all its previous loan instalments but there were arrears on the private commercial sector amounting to around \$100 million.

Kentucky Fried Chicken vows to stay on in India

NEW DELHI (AFP) — India's first Kentucky Fried Chicken (KFC) outlet was ordered to close on health grounds but the U.S. fast-food giant vowed to fight the move and insisted its fare was wholesome.

Municipal authorities in Bangalore ordered the closure of the KFC restaurant in the southern Indian city after tests found its "finger-licken

good" chicken contained double the allowable amount of monosodium glutamate, or MSG.

"While the prescribed limit of MSG is one per cent, the KFC samples contained 2.8 per cent," said A. Ravindra of the Bangalore City Corporation. "So we have withdrawn the licence given to KFC and ordered the closure of the outlet."

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He said his company remained "bullish" on India and would go ahead with plans to invest \$80 million over the next seven years, opening KFC outlets in Bombay, New Delhi and other cities.

"We have appealed against the (Bangalore) order and have got a stay," he said. "As of now we are in business. Our Bangalore restaurant is still open (and) we are extremely hopeful of getting a fair hearing."

"They did not give us time

Financial Markets			
in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank			
U.S. Dollar in International Markets			
Currency	New York Close 14/9/95	New York Close 15/9/95	
Sterling Pound	1.5470	1.5500	
Deutsche Mark	1.4883	1.4883	
Swiss Franc	1.2125	1.2085	
French Franc	5.1265	5.1190	
Japanese Yen	102.55	104.13	
European Currency Unit	1.2603	1.2595	

Eurocurrency Interest Rates			
Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.62	5.62	5.62
Sterling Pound	6.50	6.43	6.43
Deutsche Mark	3.93	3.93	3.93
Swiss Franc	2.75	2.68	2.68
French Franc	5.63	5.63	5.55
Japanese Yen	0.37	0.37	0.42
European Currency Unit	5.43	5.38	5.38

Precious Metals			
Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal
Gold	385.05	7.50	Silver
			5.49

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin			
Currency	Bid	Offer	
U.S. Dollar	0.7160	0.7180	
Sterling Pound	1.1090	1.1185	
Deutsche Mark	0.4402	0.4420	
Swiss Franc	0.5923	0.5953	
French Franc	0.1397	0.1404	
Japanese Yen	0.6668	0.6802	
Dutch Guilder	0.3291	0.3312	
Swedish Krona	0.0444	0.0446	
Italian Lira	0.0444	0.0446	

Other Currencies			
Currency	Bid	Offer	
Bahraini Dinar	1.8630	1.8955	
Lebanese Lira	0.043685	0.044685	
Saudi Riyal	0.1904	0.1920	
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.2950	2.3355	
Qatari Riyal	0.1954	0.1967	
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2180	
Omani Riyal	1.8505	1.8590	
UAE Dirham	0.1945	0.1953	
Greek Drachma	0.2825	0.3055	
Cypriot Pound	1.3996	1.5650	

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Saturday.

One U.S. dollar	1.3662/72	Canadian dollar	1.4872/82
	1.6648/58	Deutsche marks	1.2050/60
	30.57/61	Dutch guilders	5.1150/00
	1607.68/6	Swiss francs	103.33/43
	7.1410/10	Belgian francs	1607.68/6
	6.4820/70	French francs	103.33/43
	5.7491/41	Italian lire	17.1410/10
		Japanese yen	6.4820/70
		Swedish crowns	5.7491/41
		Norwegian crowns	
		Danish crowns	
One Sterling	\$1.5518/28		
One ounce of gold	\$384.80/385.30		

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Italy pays emotional farewell to Nordahl

ROME (R) — Italian soccer on Saturday paid emotional tribute to Gunnar Nordahl, the Swedish attacker whose unrivalled goalscoring exploits with AC Milan thrilled the nation in the austere 1950s.

"If I close my eyes, I still see him going for goal... we loved you Gunnar and you deserved our affection," said former prime minister and Milan owner Silvio Berlusconi.

Nordahl, a league champion with Milan in 1951 and 1955 and whose record of 210 goals for the club still stands today, died on Friday of a heart attack while swimming in a hotel pool in Aghero, Sardinia. He was 73.

Milan and Roma, with

whom Nordahl played after leaving Milan, said they would pay their respects at a Serie A clash on Sunday with a minute's silence and black armbands.

"Soccer is in tears," said the Corriere Dello Sport. "He was the greatest attacking centre-forward in our history."

The Gazzetta Dello Sport devoted three pages to the attacker, who was the first Swede to play professionally abroad and was top scorer in Italy for five seasons, three of them consecutively. He was runner-up twice.

Only French ace Michel Platini has since managed to be top goalscorer three times consecutively.

"Gunnar amazed the fans of the 1950s, filling pages of Milan history. His goals have become legendary," the Gazzetta said.

"There will be many people with damp eyes during the minute's silence."

The paper reminded its readers of how the Swede, winner of a soccer gold medal at the 1948 Olympics, had arrived in a depressed post-war Italy trying to rebuild its economy.

"They were days of reconstruction for an Italy that was knocked about by the war. People were seeing hope in life again and Gunnar became in some way a symbol," it said.

Nordahl, with compatriots

Gunnar Gren and Nils Liedholm made up the so-called Gre-No-Li attacking trio at Milan — a line-up that has been compared to Milan's Dutch threesome of Marco Van Basten, Ruud Gullit and Frank Rijkaard in the 1980s.

Liedholm was the stylist, Gren — nicknamed "il professore" and who died in 1991 — was the tactician, and Nordahl the honest strongman, forcing the ball into the net.

Liedholm, who later coached Milan and Roma, said Nordahl — nicknamed "bison" and "armoured car" for his strength and "il pompierone" (the big fireman) because that was his profession outside soccer — had

been a close friend.

"I have just lost my sister and now my brother is dead too," he wrote on Saturday. "Gunnar was a brother to me."

"It was he who brought me to Italy. I didn't want to come... but he convinced me. No player has ever been more of a hero in Italy than Gunnar," said Liedholm.

"He liked Van Basten and said he was the only man capable of beating his record. Maybe he wasn't as good in the air as Van Basten but his strength was spectacular. He was the greatest goalscorer of all time."

Giampiero Boniperti, a rival with Juventus, said simply: "With him, part of my life has gone."



Bayern Munich's Andreas Herzog (2nd left) fights for the ball with Thomas Ritter (left) and Thomas Hengen (right) of 1. FC Kaiserslautern during their German first division

match in Kaiserslautern. Bayern Munich won the match 3-2 (Reuters photo)

Kankkunen leads Australian Rally

PERTH (AP) — Four-time winner Juha Kankkunen of Finland held a 16 second lead over defending champion Colin McRae on Saturday after seven stages of Rally Australia, sixth round of the World Championship.

Kankkunen had an elapsed time of one hour, 24 seconds in his Toyota Celica and reported "everything is fine" while Scotsman McRae had clocked 1:00.40 in his Subaru Impreza but suffered damage to the rear of the car.

Mitsubishi Lancer teammates Tommi Makinen of Finland (1:00.51) and Kenneth Eriksson of Sweden (1:00.54) were third and fourth with reigning world champion Didier Auriol of France fifth in his Toyota Celica at 1:10.01 and Carlos Sainz of Spain sixth in his Subaru at 1:01.27.

Kankkunen, a four-time world champion, has dominated previous Australian rallies. He has competed six times, winning on four occasions and twice finishing second.

A fifth victory on the rough gravel roads of Western Australia would put the 36-year-old in line for another world title to add to those he won in 1986, 87, 91 and 93.

Auriol currently has 51 points while Kankkunen and Sainz have 50 and McRae has 40.

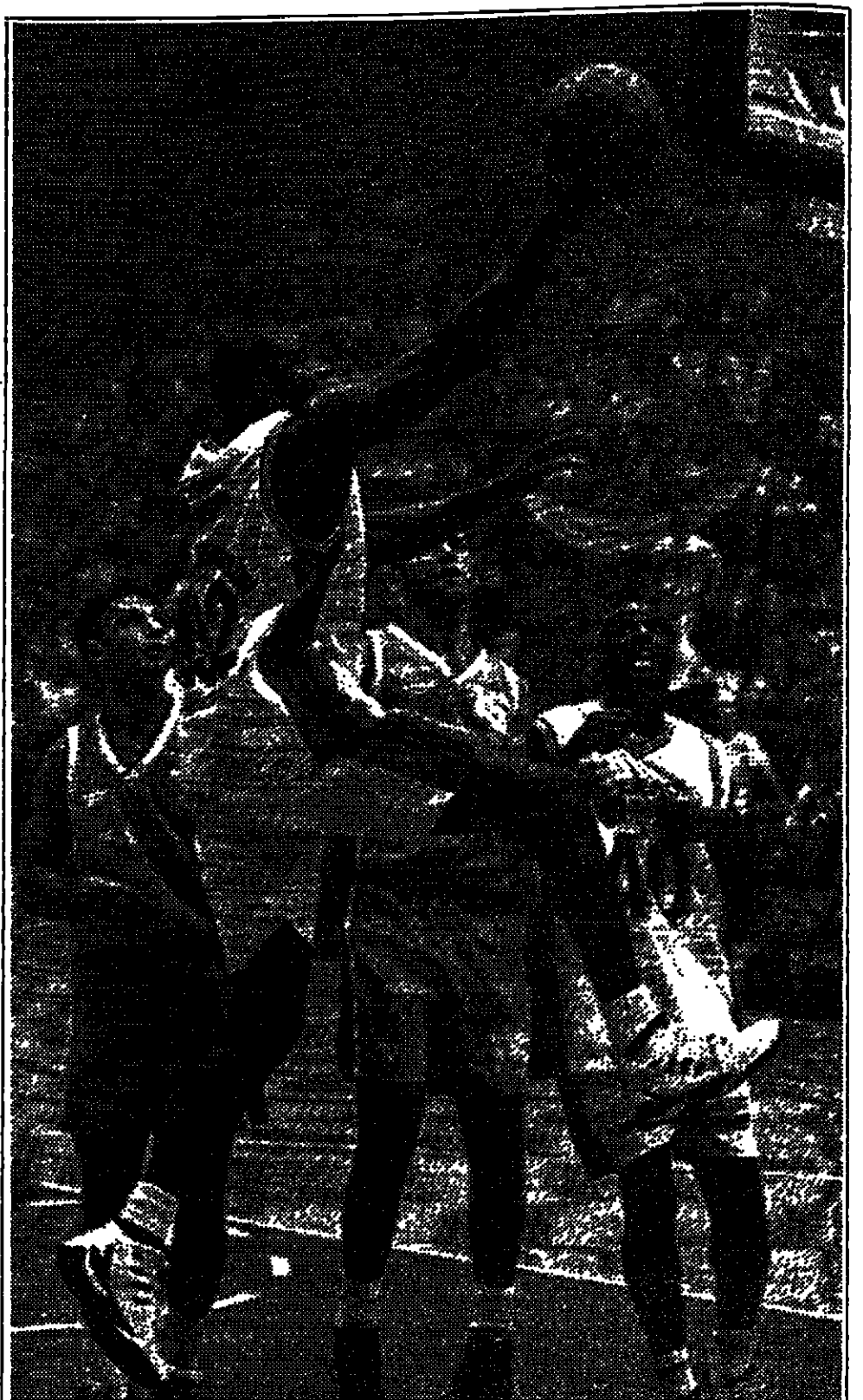
McRae has vowed to take a cautious approach in Australia.

"This is one rally where if you take risks you won't last too long," he said. "The stages are too difficult and there is no room for error."

A record entry of more than 94 cars started the four-day event late Friday. It features 30 special stages covering 504 kilometres.

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U.S. basketball star Magic Johnson jumps to Mike Mc Gee (right) look on during a show score as Tolga Tekinalp (left) and Charles game in Istanbul. Magic All Stars won the Shackleford (centre) of Ulker and All Stars' game 148-102 (Reuters photo)

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Competition heats up in 2nd division basketball

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Al Yarmouk Saturday almost secured their place in the final round of the second division basketball championship with a crucial 92-61 win over Homentmen who were relegated last year.

Al Yarmouk had surprisingly lost 57-52 to newcomers Al Jeel after easily defeating Al Karak 70-48 to top the Group B standings for now. They will have to await Saturday's late match between Al Karak and Al Jeel and the replayed match of Homentmen and Al Jeel Sunday to secure qualification.

Al Jeel had scored a 77-42 win over Homentmen in the competition's opening match but the Jordan Basketball Federation (JBF) decided to replay the match after it turned out that a Yarmouk player had played on Al Jeel's lineup because of a technical mistake in registration by the JBF.

Meanwhile in Group A, Al Hussein and Gazzet Hashem topped the three-team group and advanced to the final round awaiting the Group B winners.

The top four teams will play a knockout final round the winners of which will battle for the only slot allotted for promotion as the JBF is trying to reduce the number of teams in the country's top division.

Al Hussein and Homentmen who were relegated last year, in addition to Al Yarmouk are the top contenders for promotion but Al Jeel have proved that they are a team to be reckoned with.

However, Al Yarmouk seem to have the edge as their team has prepared well with most of their players on the Under-22 which had qualified with the country's top teams — Ahli, Orthodoxi and Jazreh — to the Under-22 final round which was played recently.

The second round of the competition will start Monday and the competition concludes Sept. 20.

STANDINGS

Group A						
	P	W	L	SF	SA	Pts
* Hussein	2	2	—	177	126	4
* Gazzet Hashem	2	1	1	91	127	3
Ashrafieh	2	—	2	137	152	2

Group B						
	P	W	L	SF	SA	Pts
Yarmouk	3	2	1	214	166	5
Homentmen	2	1	1	126	153	3
Karak	2	—	2	109	135	2
Jeel	1	1	—	57	52	2

* Qualified to 2nd round

Fredericks not expected for 200 metres

HARARE (Agencies) — Organizers delayed the men's 200-metre qualifiers in hopes of accommodating Namibian sprinter Frankie Fredericks, but his team said Saturday he still couldn't make it to Harare in time to add star appeal to the All Africa Games.

"There is no way that Fredericks will be here this afternoon," Namibian general team manager Frederick J. Briesley said. He said Sunday morning was the earliest the world record holder could reach Zimbabwe from Tokyo, where he had been planning to compete in a rival event.

Earlier in the week, organizers pushed the 200-metre heats from Saturday morning to Saturday evening. South African pole vaulter Okkert Brits also was in Tokyo, and the pole vault in Harare had been pushed from Saturday afternoon to Sunday morning.

Fredericks holds the world 200-metre record of 19.72. The All Africa Games record is more than a second slower at 20.77. Brits holds the world pole vault record of 6.14 metres (20.26 feet), only the third man in history to vault over 6 metres (19.8 feet).

The All Africa Games have been marred by the absence of several top stars in running, the continent's strength in international athletics.

Kenya said steeplechase champion Moses Kiptanui needed a rest period in his current training for next year's Atlanta Olympics after competing in last month's World Athletics Championships in Sweden and the Grand Prix contest in Switzerland, where he became the first man to run the 3,000 metre steeplechase in under eight minutes.

Four other top Kenyan runners skipped Zimbabwe to train for this month's World Military Games in Rome.

Ethiopia's world 5,000 metre record holder Haile Gebreselassie pulled out of the Harare meeting at the minute, also because problems with his training schedule. Ethiopian officials said.

Sex test put on hold

Egyptian woman handball player Hanan Eid, suspected by All Africa Game officials of really being a man, will not have to undergo a sex test — at least for the time being. Two days ago Eid was ordered to take the test after officials became suspicious when she appeared in a match against Nigeria.

"When we saw the player on the field we thought the player could be a male posing as a female hence the need

for an investigation," said African Confederation of Handball (ACH) secretary general Zorrino Katsadi.

Central Americans upset over World Cup qualifying procedure

NEW YORK (AP) — It's nearly three years before the 1998 World Cup kicks off and already there is a complaint.

The seven nations that make up the Central American confederation of Concacaf are upset over the proposed qualifying procedure for France '98 that would have them play one more round than their North American counterparts: the United States, Mexico and Canada.

It's an issue the regional confederation has faced before, says Concacaf general secretary Chuck Blazer, but one that economics and geography dictates the past and current solution.

"We do the early part of elimination on a zonal basis," explained Blazer from Concacaf's New York headquarters. "It existed before our administration. The economics and distance of travel need to be addressed. Because of some of the limitations of some countries' resources, it would not take very long before countries would go broke trying to qualify."

With three teams to qualify this time under the expanded 32-nation format, Concacaf has had to change from last time, when it had only one guaranteed berth besides the Americans' as host. Essentially the problem is that Canada, Mexico and the United States are given byes until a two-group, 10-team league system semifinal round set for September to December 1996.

From that, three teams from each group advance to a final round of six, which after a league schedule qualifies three teams.

Central America's seven teams would start out being split into one three- and a four-team group, with two teams from the four-nation group and one from the three-country group advancing to the semifinal round.

The Caribbean Zone gets two automatic qualifiers in

the semifinal round, achieved through a process of cup-system eliminations, with two more entering a league-style playoff with the second team from the Central American three-nation group.

Two teams from that playoff make up the last of the 10 semifinalists.

Central American nations, led by Honduras, feel they are getting slighted by having to play more games than North Americans teams to get to the same stage.

"Mexico, U.S. and Canada wait for the elimination of other countries, getting great advantages," said Honduran federation president Jorge Abudoj at a meeting this week of Central American soccer officials in Tegucigalpa.

"Among those advantages we can cite: less expenses derived from training camp, no injuries, and no accumulation of yellow cards."

Mexico has played in every World Cup since 1950 but three, 1974, 1982 and 1990 (when it was banned). The United States has played in the last two and Canada in 1986.

Honduras, Costa Rica and El Salvador also have reached the World Cup finals, but only Costa Rica has ever won a game.

In the latest FIFA monthly rankings, based on results over the last six years, Canada at No. 59 is the lowest ranked of the North Americans, Mexico is 10th, the United States 19th.

The highest of the Central American nations is Honduras at 71st.

Blazer insists the procedure was developed with the intent on not only economics, but qualifying the three best teams.

Atlanta Olympics to be smoke-free

ATLANTA (AP) — The 1996 Olympics will be smoke-free, including a ban not only on smoking but on advertising of tobacco products, officials said Friday.

Smoking will be forbidden at all Olympic venues "and promotion of tobacco products will be prohibited, including distribution of free samples, coupons and other promotional items," the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games said.

The policy, the committee said, is consistent with International Olympic Committee ideals of good health and a clean environment.

"Sponsorship of the Olympic Games by tobacco companies is prohibited, and ACOG will restrict the sale of tobacco products within all venues whenever possible," it said.

Dr. John D. Cantwell, ACOG's chief medical officer, described the ban as a "collaborative effort among a broad cross-section of members of the medical and health-care communities."

ACOG said it was working with the centres for disease control and prevention, the Georgia Public Health Department and other agencies to develop an information campaign to explain the no-smoking policy to visitors, athletes and officials from participating countries.

Although restrictions on smoking in public places have become commonplace in the United States, similar rules have met stiff opposition in some countries.

NBA team owners clear way for new season

NEW YORK (AP) — The National Basketball Association is back in business.

Club owners ensured six years of labour peace, voting 24-5 Friday to approve the collective bargaining agreement that players ratified earlier this week. The league's 2½-month lockout, which prevented offseason signings, will be lifted Monday.

"If you're going to have a lockout, probably the best time to do it is the summer-time," NBA Commissioner David Stern said. "But we have alerted the world we're not immune to the dangers of labour strife."

The salary cap will rise from \$15.9 million last season to \$23 million this season, and rookies will be limited to

three-year contracts. Training camps will open as scheduled on Oct. 6 and the season will start on time on Nov. 3.

Deputy Commissioner Russ Granik said almost all the teams will be over the cap when business resumes Monday because of free agents they don't intend to re-sign who still are on their rosters. "We think trading activity is pent up and is going to explode, especially among the expansion teams," Stern said.

Stern said small-market owners expressed concern that they would have more difficulty competing under the new deal, which runs through the 2000-01 season.

He said they will bring up their problems again when the league revisits its revenue sharing formulas.

"The overriding item is the level of the salary cap, where it's being raised to and where it's likely to be raised beyond that," Stern said.

Player representatives voted 25-2 Wednesday to approve the deal, which was agreed to Aug. 8. The union vote came one day after players voted 226-134 not to decertify the union, a move pushed for by Michael Jordan, Patrick Ewing and many agents. Rather than ratify the agreement, they thought they could get a better deal by proceeding with an antitrust suit against the owners.

Rangers want to forget Romania

GLASGOW (AFP) — Rangers manager Walter Smith has told his men to forget Romania, scene of their mid-week defeat to Steaua Bucharest, and get ready for Falkirk.

Rangers' 1-0 defeat in their opening Champions League game was an unexpected setback, having previously beaten the Romanians 4-0 in a friendly.

What's more, their Danish international Brian Laudrup suffered a thigh injury in the defeat and could well miss the match at Brockville.

"The most important thing for us right now is not to be distracted from our aims," said Smith, whose side also face Celtic in the Coca-Cola Cup at Parkhead on Tuesday.

European or Coca-Cola Cup matches must not deflect us from the prime objective, which is to retain the cham-

pionship again.

"We've started well with two wins and we want to keep that run going."

Russia striker Oleg Salenko is in line for a recall, while David Robertson can return after being suspended in Romania.

Smith added: "Everyone was disappointed to lose the opening game of a Champions League campaign but you must try and not take that into consideration."

Rangers striker Mark Hateley was undergoing two operations on Friday. The 33-year-old requires surgery on cartilage and ankle problems and will be out for around a month.

Falkirk boss John Lambie, who has goalkeeper Tony Parks back, treated the news that Laudrup will be out with typical bluntness: "They have got plenty of other bullets to

fire at us."

"They are bound to be dangerous coming off a European defeat but everybody outside Falkirk supporters expects us to get a hammering, so there is no pressure on us."

Partick manager Murdo MacLeod has been trying to make a signing ahead of the game against in-form Hearts at Firhill.

Jim Jefferies' visitors have taken four points from their first two games after collecting only one out of a possible 12 in four opening games last year.

Raith and Kilmarnock, who are both pointless after two defeats, meet at Stark's Park.

Celtic striker Pierre Van Hooydonk is unlikely to return after a hamstring injury against Motherwell at Parkhead.

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Japan urges Syria to speed up talks

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — Japan's Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama asked Syrian President Hafez Al Assad here Saturday to make fresh efforts to accelerate peace negotiations with Israel, saying time should not be lost.

Mr. Murayama also announced that Japan planned to grant Syria a 46.199 billion yen (about \$462 million) soft loan to finance a thermal power plant, as well as aid to set up a power stations training centre (see page 9).

It would also organise a seminar for Syrian officials in October on the transition to market economy, the premier said.

Mr. Assad and Mr. Murayama, on the first visit here by a Japanese head of government, met for more than two hours here to discuss the Middle East peace process and Syria's deadlocked talks with Israel as well as economic cooperation between Tokyo and Damascus. They continued their talks over lunch.

Mr. Murayama was to leave later Saturday for Israel where he said he will "urge the Israeli government to solve the issue on the basis of a land-for-peace exchange" based on U.N. resolutions, a Japanese spokesman said.

"The prime minister described Syria as a stable factor in the region and said he hoped Syria will continue to take a positive attitude in the Middle East peace process," spokesman Hiroshi Hashimoto said.

"The Syrian-Israeli peace talks have entered a very important stage and time should not be lost," Mr. Murayama told Mr. Assad, according to Mr. Hashimoto. He asked Mr. Assad to send a message to the Israeli people that Syria was making serious efforts to secure lasting peace, the Japanese spokesman said.

Mr. Assad reiterated his country's commitment to a comprehensive peace settlement and blamed Israel for setting obstacles along the path to a solution, his spokesman Jibril Kouriyeh said. Mr. Murayama is on a regional tour that has taken him to Saudi Arabia and Cairo. After Israel he visits Gaza and Jordan before returning home.

His visit here follows last month's decision by the Japanese government to send troops to join a U.N. peacekeeping force deployed on the Golan Heights.

The Japanese contingent, expected to number about 50, would be the first of its kind in the Middle East. It was expected to arrive in February for a two-year tour of duty.

Japan, slowly shaking off foreign policy inhibitions arising from its role in World War II, has been seeking a bigger part in the Middle East to match its huge commercial involvement in a region that provides most of its vital oil imports.

The Syrian government newspaper Tishrin said: "It is time for Japan to play a key role in the region, equal to the economic clout and importance it has in the world."

Syrian Prime Minister Mahmoud Al Zoubi, Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa and the deputy premier for economic affairs, Selim Yassin, took part in the talks at the presidential palace.

Mr. Murayama is the third Japanese premier to visit the Middle East since 1978 and the first to come to Damascus since the two countries set up diplomatic ties in 1953.

Japan already plays an active role in the multilateral track of the Middle East peace process that deal with issues such as economic cooperation and water-sharing.

In an interview with Tishrin published on Saturday, Mr. Murayama said Japan was looking for direct investments in Syria.

Japan is Syria's largest aid provider, with total loan assistance until 1993 of 110 billion yen (around \$1 billion) while grants and technical cooperation amount to three billion yen (\$29 million) and 5.7 billion yen (\$55 million) respectively.

Tokyo has been involved in three major projects in Syria: an irrigation project in Mashaana, the Baniyas power station expansion and the Jandar power station project.

Jerusalemites to vote at post offices

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel are close to agreement on the disputed issue of participation of East Jerusalem Arabs in Palestinian elections, a PLO official said on Saturday.

PLO negotiator Saeb Erekat, who heads the Palestinian election committee, said: "We are close to agreement on where Palestinian Jerusalemites will vote."

Dr. Erekat said international observers, supervised by the European Union, would monitor the election process.

"This was one of the most complicated issues, and now we are trying to work out the details," Dr. Erekat told Reuters.

Israeli and Palestinian negotiations have been at odds over whether East Jerusalem Palestinians should be eligible to run for positions on the Palestinian council which would run most aspects

of life in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

There were also disputes over whether Palestinians in Jerusalem would vote inside the city or in the West Bank. No Israeli officials were available for comment.

The contentious issue of Jerusalem has been put off until negotiations on the final status of the Palestinian territories scheduled to start in May 1996.

Nzo defies Israel South African Foreign Minister Alfred Nzo visited the PLO's unofficial headquarters in East Jerusalem on Saturday despite opposition from Israel.

Mr. Nzo turned up at the headquarters, the Orient House, ahead of the scheduled time of his meeting with senior Palestinian official Faisal Hussein, an AFP correspondent said.

"I came to express my support for the Palestinian people," Mr. Nzo said, according to PLO officials.

Brotherhood activists go on trial in Egypt

HEIKSTEP (Agencies) — Egypt's military court opened trial of 49 leading members of Muslim Brotherhood, the country's largest and most influential fundamentalist group, on Saturday on charges of forming illegal group, plotting against the state and violating constitutional laws.

The defendants were brought in three blue military trucks to the desert army camp of Heikstep, north of Cairo. About 14 police jeeps and two armoured personnel carriers escorted them.

The 49 — lawyers, former members of parliament, university professors, religious scholars, doctors and engineers — peered out through the tiny barred windows of the trucks and waved the V-victory to the few foreign journalists outside.

"Peace be upon you," some shouted faintly. Foreign journalists and television crew were banned from attending the hearings to prevent them interviewing

the men who often show signs of torture by police trying to extract confessions. Only the government-controlled press was allowed.

This is the first mass trial of Brotherhood members since 1965 and confirms the government's determination to clamp down on the organisation which was founded in 1928.

Members of Brotherhood cannot stand for election in the name of the organisation but in previous elections they have stood under the umbrella of recognised parties, with other Brotherhood members helping to organise their campaigns.

"The government is targeting them because it fears their rising and wide popularity... It is afraid they will win the forthcoming elections," lawyer Abdul Halim Ramadan said.

The Muslim Brotherhood has won control of the lawyers, doctors, teachers and engineers syndicates in earlier elections, prompting



BELGIAN PRINCE VISITS: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Saturday receives Crown Prince Felipe of Belgium. Discussions during the meeting dealt with means to enhance Jordanian-Belgian relations. His Royal Highness Prince Faisal and Belgian Ambassador Guido Courtois attended the meeting. Crown Prince Felipe is on a private visit to Jordan (Petra photo)

Political parties are a must in Jordan, 3 leaders affirm

AMMAN (J.T.) — Leaders of three political parties here said political parties in Jordan were a necessity, and a vital instrument for democracy, countering rumours that the Jordanian people were fed up with political parties' work.

At a seminar hosted by the International and Islamic Centre for Studies and Information to mark three years since the legalisation of political parties, Jordan Communist Party Secretary General Yacoub Zayadeen said it was untrue that the Jordanian people do not want political parties.

Dr. Zayadeen said parties started to operate in Jordan before the 1930s. He said in the 1940s and 1950s large numbers of young Jordanians joined political parties and sacrificed their youth in defending democracy and the freedom of expression.

When political parties were legalised by the enactment of the Political Parties Law in

September 1992, the country was facing difficult economic conditions and was trying to tackle the problems of unemployment and poverty, said Dr. Zayadeen. This, in addition to external factors such as the collapse of the socialist bloc and the birth of the new world order, made the task of political parties even more difficult, he added.

He said the large number of political parties in Jordan demonstrates the people's desire to serve their country, noting that it was the government which was rejecting licensing political parties before the start of the democratisation process.

Dr. Zayadeen described political parties as schools teaching people politics, economics and public work and to respect others' views.

"We want our society to become civilised, in that our people join parties, popular institutions and unions, because this will give value to life," said the veteran communist leader.

Jordan National Alliance Party Secretary General Mihem Al Khreisha, who also spoke at the seminar, outlined developments in the Jordanian, regional and international arenas since the legalisation of political parties and the effects of these developments on the Jordanian democratisation process.

Mr. Khreisha said Jordanian citizens grew up with the impression that political parties were instruments for sabotage. Such an idea was now in need for update, he said.

All government and non-governmental departments and mass media organisations shoulder the responsibility of educating the people of the role of political parties.

Mr. Khreisha voiced concern over the future of democratisation process, saying it might be threatened by rapprochement in ties with some Arab countries. (Continued on page 7)

Court sentences Filipina to death in UAE murder retrial

AL AIN (Agencies) — An Islamic court in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on Saturday sentenced a teenage Filipina maid to death for murder in a shock retrial verdict that rejected her claim she was raped.

Sixteen-year-old Sarah Balabagan, her head covered in a black veil, began crying after the three-judge panel imposed the death penalty for stabbing her Gulf Arab employer Almas Mohammad Al Baloushi 34 times.

"This court charges the defendant with premeditated murder and sentences her to death," said Chief Judge Ahmad Al Tatwani.

Ms. Balabagan, who was 15 at the time of the killing, was originally convicted of manslaughter in June and jailed for seven years. But the court at the same time also concluded that Baloushi had raped her and awarded her financial compensation.

Contradictory medical evidence in the retrial, however, cast doubt on Ms. Balabagan's claim that she had been raped, and the court concluded that in any case the killing was not connected. "There is no linkage between the sexual advance and

the incident (the killing)," Judge Tatwani told reporters after pronouncing the death sentence.

But he also added that the court could not be positive that Baloushi had made a sexual advance.

"One of the doctors said there was a tear to the hymen but the court concluded she is still a virgin. A laboratory concluded there was no sperm," he added.

Mr. Tatwani, asked about marks on the maid's body, said: "These marks are from fingernails. This is natural, the man was fighting death."

The dead man's age was not established in court. His son said he was 85 but Ms. Balabagan said he was in his early 60s.

Executions in the UAE are usually by firing squad. "It's unfair. I only defended myself, the girl wept after the verdict was announced. She had expected to be acquitted."

In Manila, the government expressed shock at the verdict and President Fidel Ramos ordered diplomats to file an appeal immediately, while a support group for overseas workers said it would mount street protests.

Ms. Balabagan's lawyer, Mohammad Al Amin, said an appeal would be launched within three days.

At a first trial, whose verdict was annulled at the order of President Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan, the same court ruled she had been raped but condemned the girl to seven years in jail.

Baloushi's family and the prosecution had demanded the death sentence, denying Ms. Balabagan was raped and contending she was guilty of premeditated murder.

The Philippine embassy has been paying for Ms. Balabagan's legal costs.

Manila has been watching the case closely while stepping up efforts to defend its expatriate workers since another maid, Flor Contemplacion, was executed in March in Singapore for a double murder.

Mr. Ramos appealed to Sheikh Zayed for Ms. Balabagan's pardon or clemency.

Mr. Amin and Philippine Ambassador Roy Seneres have repeatedly asked for Ms. Balabagan to be acquitted, saying she was acting in self-defence when she killed Baloushi with the knife he used to rape her.

Egypt has 'proof' linking Sudan to Mubarak attack

CAIRO (AFP) — Egypt has a proof that Khartoum helped militants infiltrate from Sudan to Ethiopia for a failed attempt to kill President Hosni Mubarak in Addis Ababa in June, a newspaper reported Saturday.

"Sudanese security forces facilitated the entry and exit of the terrorists through Khartoum airport and gave them official letters to make their mission easier with the airport and airlines," the daily Al Ahram said.

Egypt had official documents "bearing the names of the terrorist elements and easing their entry to Khartoum airport from Pakistan and their taking off on a Sudanese plane to Addis Ababa a short time before the attack" on Mr. Mubarak.

The documents included proof that "they left without finishing the required procedures for travellers," including a "letter to the head of passport control at Khartoum airport marked top secret," the paper said.

The documents also show letters booking two seats on an official Sudanese carrier out of Addis Ababa "only hours after the attack, giving names of two of those accused (in the attack), Hussein Ahmad Shemil and Sherif Abdul Rahman."

Shemil, also known as Serag, took the return flight, while Abdul Rahman was wounded during the ambush on Mr. Mubarak's motorcade and later shot dead by Ethiopian police, the paper said.

Shemil has a Sudanese passport and citizenship and carried a false Ethiopian passport on the flight to Addis Ababa, Al Ahram said.

The documents were uncovered during Ethiopia's investigation into the assassination attempt, the paper said.

An Egyptian Foreign Ministry official told AFP on Friday that Egypt and Ethiopia were "examining retaliatory measures against the Sudanese regime after the discovery of evidence linking it" to the attack.

Khartoum has denied any link to the plot to kill Mr. Mubarak. It says it is searching for three of the would-be assassins who fled to Sudan after the attack, according to Ethiopia, but insists only one of them ever entered its territory.

Sudan called Saturday for dialogue with students who led a wave of demonstrations in Khartoum and said it would release some of those arrested during the protests.

"Security authorities have tightened control over the sources of recent demonstrations and arrangements will be started for the release of the detainees," the daily Akhbar Al Youm reported.

An unidentified official told the daily that their government "intends to pursue its goal of achieving political detente to provide the opportunity for all political forces to work together."

Two prominent leftist lawyers arrested during the unrest, Mustafa Abdul Qader and Mohammad Ali Al Sayed, would soon be released, the paper said.

Security forces rounded up almost 500 people following the anti-government protests which began on Monday and left at least three people dead. The demonstrations were the largest since President Omar Al Bashir took power in 1989.

An Akhbar Al Youm editorial urged Sudan's leaders to "bear in mind Bashir's call to listen to the other viewpoint."

"We should not just say the students were agitated by remnants of the (banned) Communist Party or leftist forces. We should learn the motives that made them respond to the agitation and handle the matter wisely."

Khartoum accused Ethiopia and Eritrea, along with local leftists, of stirring up the disturbances.

The paper noted that stern warnings from the Interior Ministry succeeded in ending the trouble after vowing to act "resolutely and decisively" towards any new demonstrations.

Anti-riot police remained in Khartoum on Saturday, posted at the corners of the main streets, witnesses in the capital said.

Amnesty International expressed "deep concern" Friday for the safety of those under detention.

In a statement issued in London, Amnesty said: "We are deeply concerned that some of the prisoners have been tortured following reports of severe beatings by security officials... Some of those arrested are prisoners of conscience and should be released immediately."

Amnesty said it had reports that security forces who went into the engineering faculty had summarily executed three students after separating them from the others.

NEWS IN BRIEF

RJ jet given all clear after scare

SHANNON (AFP) — A Royal Jordanian (RJ) Airlines jet which landed here after a bomb scare was given permission to continue its journey Saturday after an army search revealed nothing, airport officials said. The plane flew from this western Irish airport on to New York's Kennedy Airport later Saturday. The 267 passengers and crew on board the Lockheed 10-11 flying from Amsterdam were evacuated while the Irish army's bomb disposal unit carried out the search. The plane made an emergency landing here Friday after a phone call was made to police in Amsterdam saying that a bomb had been placed on board a Royal Jordanian airlines plane in the city's Schiphol airport. Of the three Jordanian planes which had departed from Schiphol since the bomb alert, only the New York flight was still en route. The other two planes had landed safely in Amman.

U.N. disarmament official to visit Iraq

BAGHDAD (AFP) — The deputy head of the U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM) on disarmament Iraq is to visit Baghdad on Sunday to follow up on new revelations about its banned weapons programmes, a U.N. official here said. Charles Duelfer will meet Oil Minister Amer Rashid, who is in charge of negotiations with UNSCOM. Iraq handed over new information on its arms programmes after the August 8 defection to Jordan of former Industry Minister Hussein Kamel Hassan, whom Baghdad accused of concealing the data. UNSCOM chief Rolf Ekeus said the Iraqi government admitted to a far larger and more advanced germ warfare programme than was previously thought existed.

Japan to give \$14 m in grant to Jordan

AMMAN (Petra) — The Japanese government will offer Jordan three grants worth \$14 million, according to sources at the Ministry of Planning. The sources said the grants will be used for increasing food production, controlling environmental pollution and purchasing education material. The Jordanian and Japanese governments will sign agreements on the contracts on Sunday at the Ministry of Planning. The agreements will be signed by Minister of Planning Rima Khalaf and Japanese Ambassador Takayuki Kimura.

Jordan, Philippines sign aviation accord

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and the Philippines on Saturday signed a memorandum of understanding on cooperation in civil aviation and air transport, capping two days of talks between officials from the two countries at the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA). The memo allows Royal Jordanian and the Philippines national airlines to operate two weekly flights between the two countries.



Lost Monteverdi opera makes triumphant return

LONDON (R) — A Monteverdi opera commissioned for a royal wedding and lost for 300 years made a triumphant return after being "recomposed" from a surviving fragment. Opera fans at London's famed Covent Garden cheered Friday night at the finale of "Arianna: lost opera by Claudio Monteverdi," composed again by Alexander Goehr, suggesting the 140-year-old opera house had landed itself a hit. Pink-winged angels descended on chairs from the sky, the heroine was winched from the sea through a neon-rimmed hole in the stage and gods dropped from the heavens in boxes. The 16 musicians and conductor Ivor Bolton performed mid-stage with the singers and the deep blue set was Spartan, as it would have been in Monteverdi's time. But with extra bars still being written last week, the opera could not be more contemporary — and the fans loved it. "It was absolutely wonderful. It showed the big positive emotions, not just despair and depression," said Richard Crockett, whose favourite opera is Beethoven's Fidelio. "I came for Goehr," said Peter Kinnison, a fan of Tchaikovsky, Berlioz and Stravinsky. "It was supposed to be Monteverdi and it did actually work beautifully." Originally commissioned in Italy in 1608, the opera tells the myth of Ariadne (Arianna), abandoned on the island of Naxos by Theseus, career-conscious prince of Athens, and her rescue by the Greek god Bacchus. Written to celebrate the marriage of Prince Francesco to Margherita of Savoy, the score vanished 10 years later when the Italian city of Mantua was sacked by imperial troops. Only Ottavio Rinuccini's libretto and a fragment of the score, Arianna's famous lament, have survived.

Liz Taylor in the hospital for irregular heartbeat

LOS ANGELES (R) — Actress Elizabeth Taylor, whose career has been punctuated by a series of health problems, has been admitted to a California hospital suffering from an irregular heartbeat, her doctor said Friday. "She is there for evaluation and is doing fine," Dr. Charles Freedman said in a statement. He said Ms. Taylor, 63, was taken to St. John's Hospital in Santa Monica Thursday afternoon "for an irregularity of her heart rhythm," a spokeswoman for the hospital west of Los Angeles said there was no word on when the two-time Academy Award winning actress will be released. Bruce Hensel, medical adviser for Los Angeles TV station KNBC, said Ms. Taylor's doctor told him "she was resting comfortably and was in no immediate danger." "If all goes well, he plans to just keep her in the hospital for a couple of days and send her home," Mr. Hensel said. Last June Ms. Taylor underwent right hip replacement surgery, just 15 months after a similar operation on the left hip.

New law to wean French drivers off liquid lunches

PARIS (AP) — Drinking and driving, as French as Burgundy with brie, was targeted by a tough new law that makes many people legally drunk after more than two glasses of wine. Only two? Sacre Bleu say some French intent on maintaining their beloved "bon vivant" lifestyle. Some even say they'll stay a step ahead of police by keeping a breath analyser of their own in the glovebox. "Working your way through a good bottle of wine is one of life's great pleasures," said Dominique Levalle of Versailles, sipping Chablis at a Paris bar.